

## In last 5 yrs in Jhenidah dist 3,983 committed suicide, two third of them women

From Our Correspondent

A police officer who investigated many suicidal cases as Investigation Officer (IO) said that they were informed that incurable colic pain was number one reason behind most of the suicide cases though these information were not correct. Further, to avoid complicity some people do not disclose the truth to the police. Police could not take necessary action against the guilty persons who were liable for these deaths.

JHENIDAH, Apr 25: At least 3983 persons including 2715 women committed suicide by taking pesticides or hanging themselves in six thanas of the district during last five years, police sources said.

According to reports, abhorrence, dependency, poverty, unemployment, unhappiness in conjugal life, incurable diseases and dowry are mainly the causes for these unnatural deaths.

A good number of cases are being treated as suicide or unnatural deaths (UD) case though there were reports of a number of murders in the area, a source said.

In Saikupa, Harinakundu, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Moheshpur thanas of the district, 880 people committed

suicide in 1990. In 1991, the figure was almost close while in 1992 it was 749. There was 764 cases of unnatural death during 1993 and 707 in 1994.

Of the victims 2950 were in their youth or of tender age, the source informed.

A police officer who investigated many suicidal cases as Investigation Officer (IO) told that they were informed that incurable colic pain was number one reason behind most of the suicide cases though these information were not correct. Further, to avoid complicity some people do not disclose the truth to the police.

Police could not take necessary action against the guilty person who were liable for these deaths.

The source also informed that the number of suicide case are comparatively more in Jhenidah district and people of this area are most emotional and suicide seems to become a fashion or tradition to some young people.

Rina Khatun, 14, who took pesticides to commit suicide a few months back, told this correspondent that following a quarrel with her mother she took the decision to commit suicide, which she ultimately failed to do.

## DC, SP, magistrate sued for harassing political leaders in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 25: Twenty-eight people including the DC, SP and a magistrate were sued Saturday allegedly for harassing some local political leaders on April 4, says UNB.

The case was filed with a court by CPB leader Ismail Hossain, Poursava Commissioner Zulfikar Haider Taru, JCD leader Shamim Ahned Khan and BCL leader Golam Haider.

They alleged, that police raided their houses at the instruction of those officials following a clash in the town between supporters of All-Party Action Committee and Jamaat-e-Islami on April 4.

Police arrested CPB leader Ismail Hossain following the clash over the visit of Jamaat leader Golam Azam to the town on April 7. He was later enlarged on bail.

3 unidentified men beaten inside mosque

NARSHINGDI, Apr 25: Three unidentified men were seriously injured by some miscreants at a mosque near the bus stand of the district town at dead of night on Friday, reports UNB.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They alleged, that police raided their houses at the instruction of those officials following a clash in the town between supporters of All-Party Action Committee and Jamaat-e-Islami on April 4.

Police arrested CPB leader Ismail Hossain following the clash over the visit of Jamaat leader Golam Azam to the town on April 7. He was later enlarged on bail.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

They were rushed to the sadar hospital Saturday morning and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the condition of the two were stated to be critical.

## Frequent fire incidents costing 60 pc fire incidents too many property in CHT occur from kitchens

From Our Correspondent

after the havoc. The local leaders, however, appealed for more relief.

At noon on Monday another fire broke out in Mohalchhari bazar at thana headquarters of Mohalchhari in Khagrachhari hill district which gutted thirty dwelling houses along with rice mills and shops. The loss of damage would be around Taka fifty lakh, the Nirbah Officer of Mohalchhari thana said. No relief has yet been given to the affected people, the victims alleged.

One half of Karalyachhari bazar with fifty-two shops of different nature in Longadue thana of Rangamati hill district were gutted in a fire that broke out Monday, midnight.

The loss of damage in terms of money would be around fifty lakh, the president of the bazar committed said.

With the advent of summer compounded with continued burning of jungles for jhoom cultivation, fire has been breaking out in the region almost every day causing huge damages to properties and even loss of lives. Fire originated from jhoom burning claimed this time an armed police battalion camp, arms and ammunition government raised plantation of trees in many places and hundreds of rubber plantations in the region apart from the ecological and natural losses.

The fire havoc besides colossal damages to the property left 21 persons and a large number of cattle-head and fowls dead.

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Apr 25: The fire incidents have created a havoc all over the districts of greater Rangpur zone.

According to the information, during the last one year at least 846 fire incidents occurred and property worth about Taka two crore 40 lakh were gutted rendering hundreds of families homeless in the zone.

Hundred more fire incidents occurred during the last three months this year causing total damages to property worth over Taka one crore and rendering at least one hundred families shelterless.

The fire havoc besides colossal damages to the property left 21 persons and a large number of cattle-head and fowls dead.

In the middle of the current month a devastating fire occurred in the newly established Partex manufacturing factory at Uttam union in the outskirts of town causing damages to the property worth about Taka 50,00,000.

As per statistics from the fire brigade department, at least sixty per cent fire incidents originated from kitchen fire, blazing oven, kerosene lamps, cigarettes & bidis and ashes of oven and the rest 40 per cent caused by electric short circuits, careless handling of fire and playing with it by children.

It is worth mentioning that due to the prolonged drought most of the water-sources have dried up all over the region

Stationeries, medicine, photography and groceries shops, restaurants, residential hotels, private wirehouses, two automatic rice-mills, four flour mills one a considerable number of dwelling houses along with the jam-e-masjid of the bazar were burnt to ashes before the fire-fighters reached the place from Khagrachhari district headquarters, some thirty five kilometres from here.

The loss of damage in terms of money according to Shafig-ud-Daulla, the Thana Nirbah Officer of Dighinala thana would be more than Taka five crore, what he termed as primary estimate.

The fire might have been originated either from an over of restaurant or burning of jungles for jhoom cultivation in the adjacent hills of the bazar area, the victims alleged.

The Chairman of the Local Government Council of Khagrachhari hill district, Samiran Dewan distributed Taka two lakh in cash among the affected people and the Deputy Commissioner of the district Mohammad Ismail allotted three metric tons of rice along with Taka thirty thousand in cash. Earlier, the Thana Nirbah Officer of Dighinala thana distributed five kilogram of rice for each affected family immediately



GOPALGANJ: A partial view of fire affected Monohari Patti. The fire, ignited from an electric short-circuit, destroyed property worth Tk one crore. — Star photo



NOAKHALI: Dr. Kamal Hossain, President of Gono Forum, addressing a rally at Town Hall area recently. — Star photo

## Frequent abduction cases in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 25: Law and order has further deteriorated in Jhenidah during the last two weeks.

According to reports, Sudhir Ghosh, 20, a farmer of village Saikupa in Kotchandpur thana was abducted by some miscreants and was recovered after 10 days.

Reports say, at night some miscreants abducted Sudhir and demanded Taka two lakh as ransom money. Sachin Ghosh, the ill-fated father of Sudhir Ghosh managed Taka 15 thousand and went to bring back his son. But in vain. Next day he was advised to meet at a place in a village of Moheshpur thana and came back without his son again. He then circulated the news to his fellow villagers and influential persons, local people said.

On April 10, police personnel raided a house of Nazrul Islam of village Dudsara in

Kotchandpur thana to recover some stolen goods, but accidentally they found Sudhir Ghosh inside along with the stolen goods. Police then arrested Abdur Rahim, Nurunnabi, Ayub Khan and another female in connection with the abduction, police sources said.

A case was registered with Kotchandpur police and the arrested were sent to jail.

Another report says, Abdul Wadud, 35, of village Karatpara was abducted by some unknown armed men recently.

Local people said, the armed men might be activists of an underground political party who has been frequently abducting people in the region. Earlier, Mokaddes Ali, 40, of village Surat in Jhenidah sadar thana was abducted reportedly by some unknown armed men on the same day.

## World Vision-Bangladesh to assist ten thousand poor students in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Apr 25: A programme for expanding education among the poor students of Netrakona district, was taken this year under the auspices of World Vision, Bangladesh, Netrakona region, reports BSS.

Mr Theophil Hajong Netrakona regional manager of World Vision said recently that his organisation has sanctioned Taka 88 lakh for making the programme a success.

A total of 10,070 students would come under the programme in the primary, secondary and colleges levels Mr Hajong said.

## Power supply remains cut off in two thanas of Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Apr 25: Power remained suspended in two thanas of the district since Thursday following a tornado that hit the areas and uprooted six electric poles, reports UNB.

Residents said local shrimp importers have been incurring huge financial loss as they cannot freeze and prepare the shrimps for trading abroad.

Cultivators feared that shrimps worth crores of taka might be damaged due to power failure in the two thanas.

## Clash, road mishaps thunder storm claim eight lives

SATKHIRA, Apr 25: Three people were killed when they were stuck by lightning in two thanas of the district Friday night, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Abdul Khaleque, 60, a guard of a shrimp enclosure of Mohatpur village in Kaliganj thana, was struck by a thunder bolt while on duty at a beel at around 8 pm.

Sheikh Shaheed, 50, a while he was going out of the bus terminal. He hailed from the Sadar thana of the district.

Haran Mondal, 40, of village Naykathi in Shyamnagar thana was also killed by lightning.

Three unnatural death cases were filed with the local police.

NARAYANGANJ. One person was killed on the spot and 20 others were injured, four of them critically, in a clash between two rival groups of farmers over land dispute at Shah Alamdi, a village under Aralshar police station on Saturday, reports BSS.

According to police sources, the clash occurred over the possession of land.

When a group of farmers equipped with spears, lathis and rambaos took the possession of the land, the rival parties put a resistance resulting in the killing of Taher Ali, 50, on the spot and injuring of nearly 20 persons.

SIRAJGANJ. Three people were killed when two trucks collided on Bogra-Na-

garbari highway at Bhulyagati in Raiganj thana Saturday midnight, reports UNB.

Police said the accident occurred when a Pabna-bound paddy-loaded truck from Nimgachi clashed head on with a coal-loaded truck.

The dead were identified as traders and hailed from Sirajganj. They died on the spot when the coal laden truck turned turtle and fell over them.

Police recovered the bodies at 2 pm today.

Our staff correspondent in Barisal adds: At least 30 passengers were injured, seven of them critically, when a Patuakhali bound bus fell into a roadside ditch at Rupatali three kilometers from here this afternoon.

Of the injured, seven were admitted to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. They are as Bazu, 45, Zakir, 30, Sahinur, 16, Mita, 40, Hanif, 30, Jainal, 25 and Sankar, 20.

The driver of the bus escaped.

Another message from Chandpur adds: A woman was killed by lightning at Bolasha village about eight km north-west from the district town during the storm that lashed the area on Thursday night.

The ill-fated housewife Julekha Begum, 22, died on the spot. Dozens of cows were also killed during the storm.

Many houses and trees were razed to the ground rendering many people shelterless.

## Two convicted for raping schoolgirl

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 25: Chowdhury Moniruddin Mahfuz, Assistant Sessions Judge and Special Tribunal Habiganj while passing his judgement in a sensational rape case found two persons guilty and sentenced them to suffer rigorous imprisonment for ten years on charge of raping a schoolgirl. The court also fined the convicted persons Taka one thousand in default or suffer six months RI more.

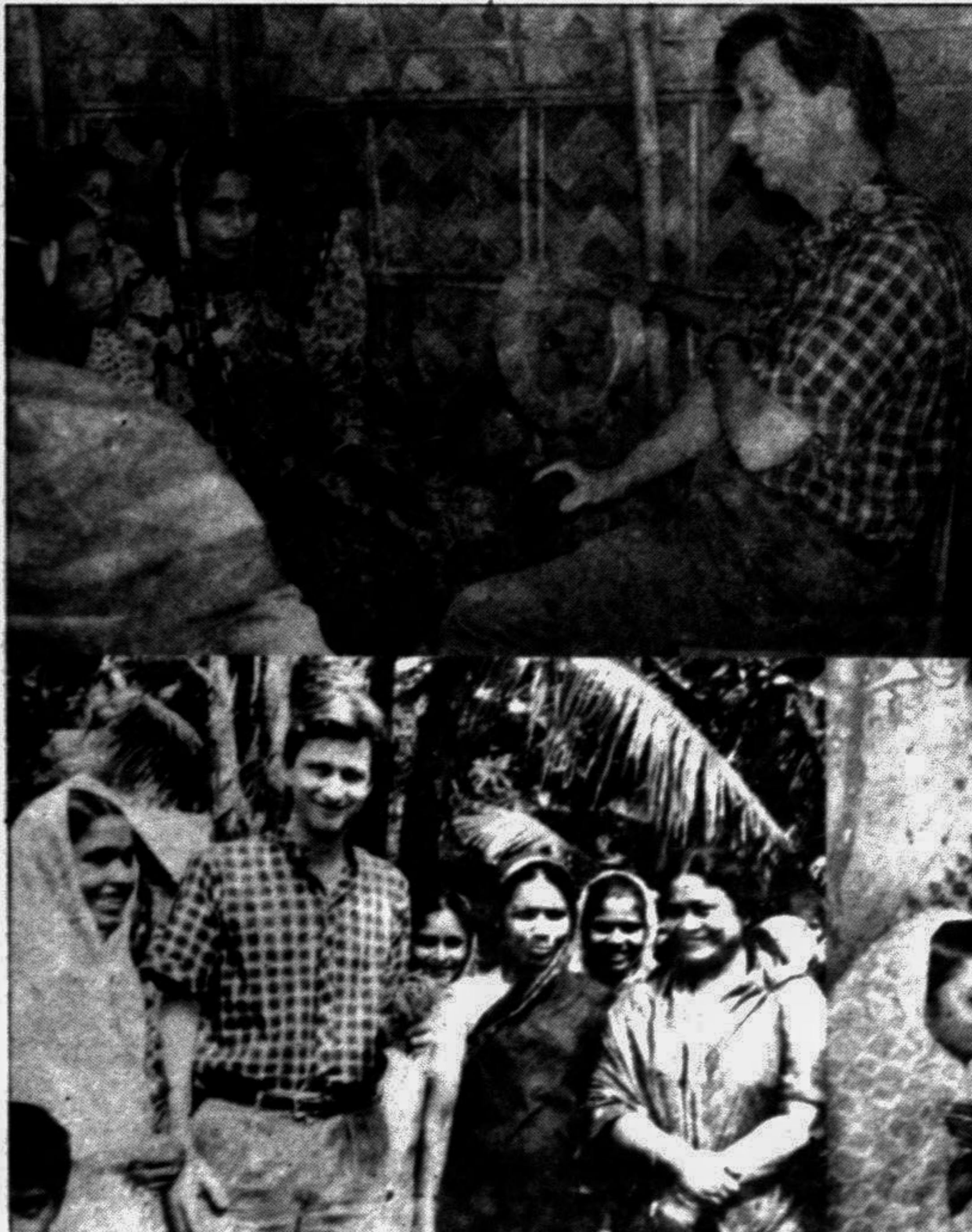
The prosecution case in brief is that, Pranati Rani Acharya, a student of class VII in the Habiganj JK & GK High School was on her way home on September 25 in 1991 after attending school examination.

When she reached at a place near the Khowai embankment, Arju of village Purba Bhadiul and Atar Ali of Pashchim Bhadiul caught her and forcibly took her into a roadside sugarcane field. They violated her there.

## Smuggled timber from Sundarbans seized

KHULNA, Apr 25: Patrol squads of the Bangladesh Navy recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka two lakh at the Mongla Nala and the adjoining area recently, an ISPR press release said Saturday, reports BSS.

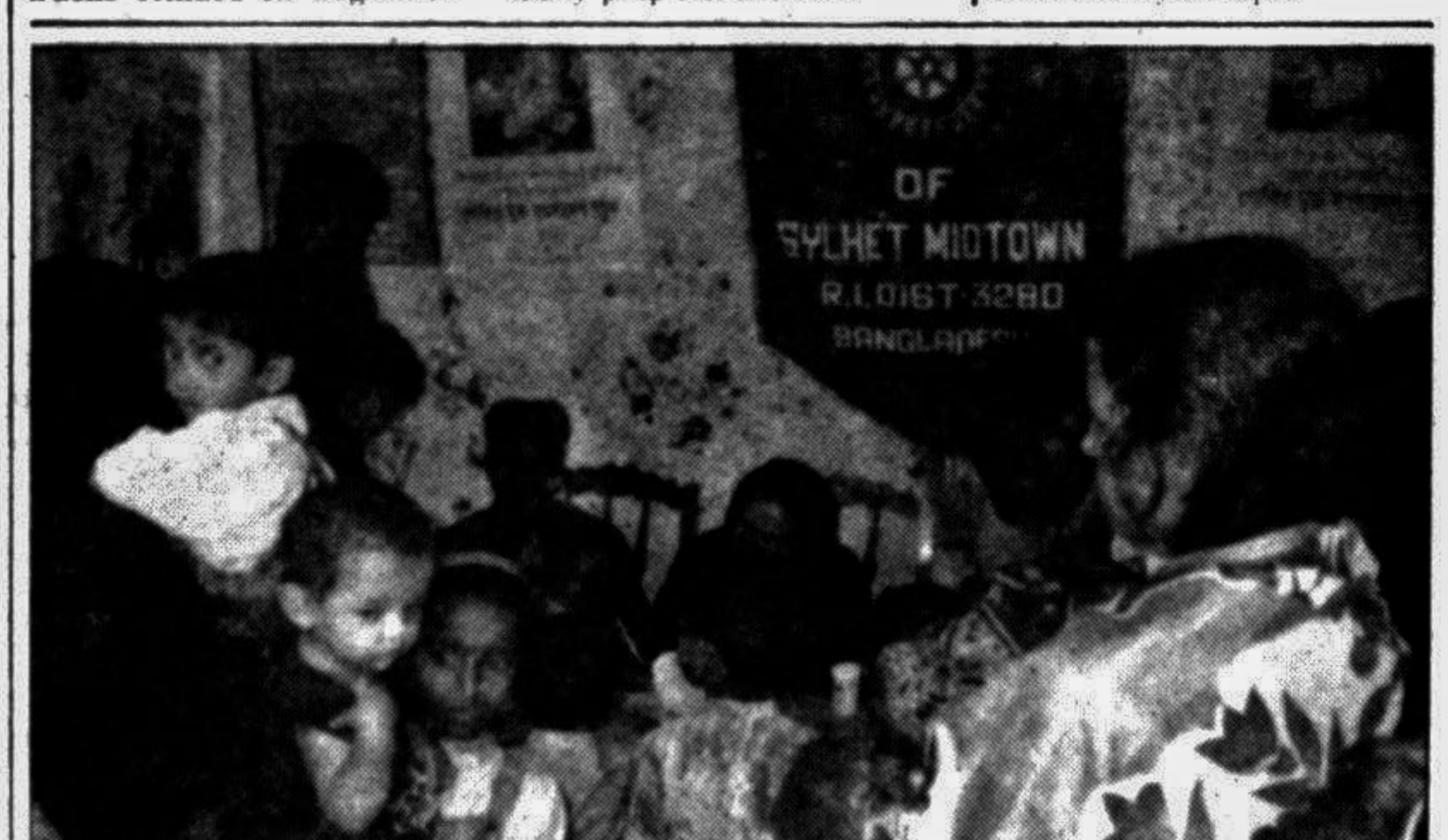
The recovered goods included Sundari, Gea and Gokran wood, stolen diesel, cement and nylon rope.



Crown Prince Phillip of Belgium on a private visit in Bangladesh on April 4 visited some Grameen Bank branches to gain first hand knowledge about the bank's activities and its operation. Here (from top left clock wise) he is seen talking with female members of the bank, showing some traditional handicraft, learning some local craft and in a group picture clad in Grameen Check in village Palash of Narshingdi district.



Three people were killed when two trucks collided on Bogra-Na-



SYLHET: Children under-5 years are being fed polio dose at a centre run by Midtown Rotary Club of Sylhet. — Star photo