

Wife allegedly kills husband

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Feb 5: One Dastar Ali, 35, of village Sachal in Tarail thana was killed allegedly by his wife and her paramour on the night of January 28 last.

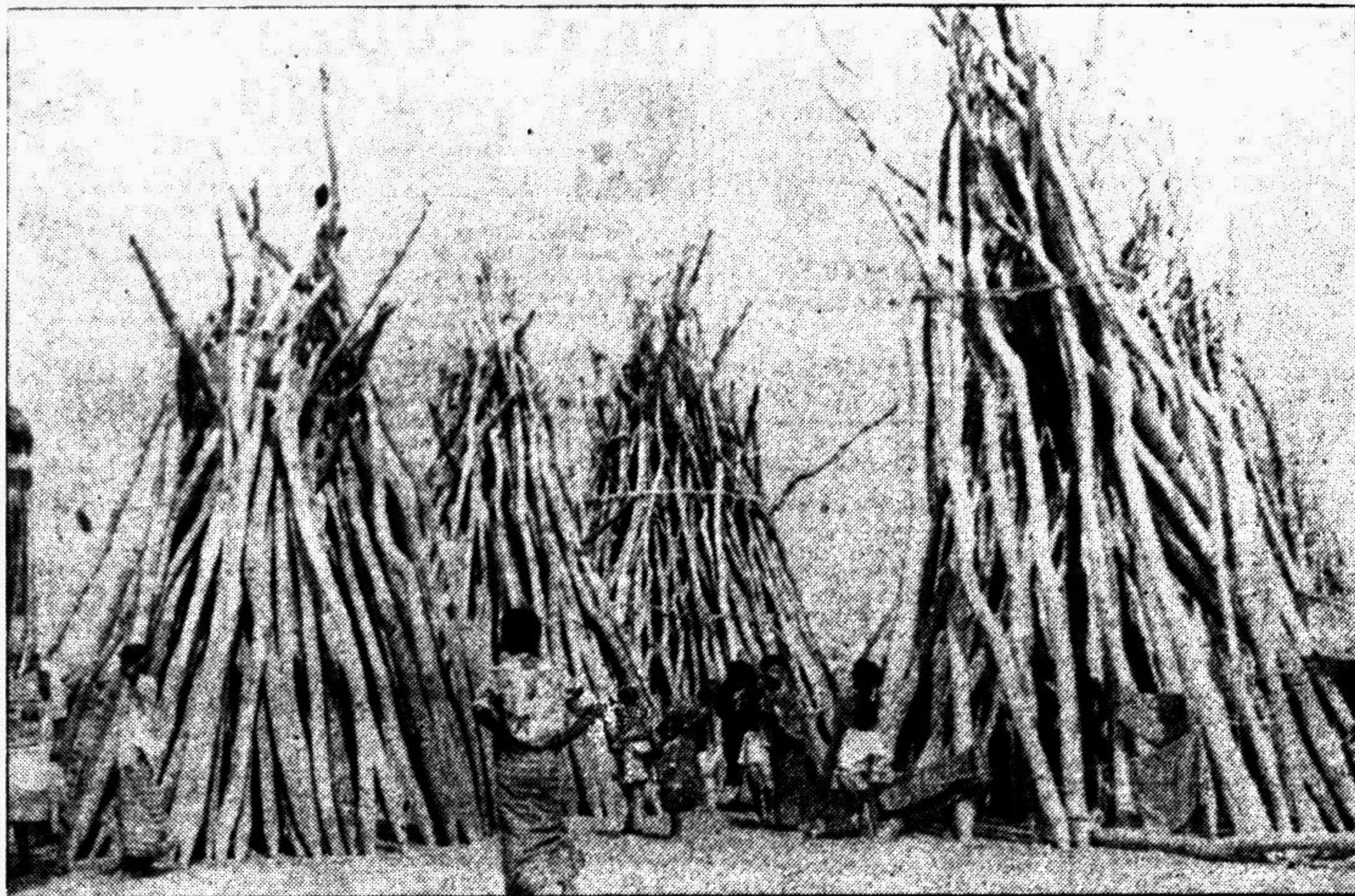
Police took Rehana Begum, wife of the deceased into custody and sent the body to the Kishoreganj morgue.

According to police, Rehana Begum was married to Dastar Ali three years ago. There had been illicit relationship between Rehana Begum and Shawkat Ali of the same village. On the night of incident, Dastar Ali caught both of them red-handed while engaged in immoral acts and abused them.

Dastar Ali was found dead the next morning. Wife of the victim and other relatives propagated that he had committed suicide by taking poison and tried to bury him.

On getting information, police rushed to the spot at the time of burial. The body bore marks of torture on the chest. Investigation Officer (I.O) of the case informed.

A case was registered with Tarail police station in this connection. Accused Shawkat Ali is at large.



NOAKHALI. Timber on sale at a local market in Nijhum island under Sudharum thana of the district. Hundreds of trees are being cut from the man-made forest seriously affecting the environment of the island. — Star photo

Six wanted criminals arrested

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Feb 5: Gaibandha thana police in a surprised drive arrested six accused persons who were at large since long.

On getting a secret information on February 1 night a strong team of police contingent led by Senior SI Sattaranjan Bhadra launched a drive at village Ramchandra-pur and Dhangara under sadar thana and arrested six persons from their dwelling houses.

The accused persons are Nurunabi, Tajul Mia, Kabir, Khoka, Fazlu and Ful Mia. Two criminal cases are in trial against them.

116 people charged with damaging forest resources surrender

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 5: Some 116 local people charged with destroying forest resources surrendered to Chokoria thana Magistrate Court yesterday, reports UNB.

Court sources said, the accused were released on bail.

According to prosecution, a forest worker of Nolibla Bonbit at Fasiakhali range filed a case in 1987 against some 243 people for destroying forest resources and occupying lands in the area.

Earlier, more than 100 accused had been granted bail as they surrendered to the court.

Fire damages property worth Tk 1 lakh

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Feb 5: A devastating fire damaged properties worth about Taka one lakh at village Ram Proshad under Gaibandha sadar thana recently.

At deep of night the fire originated from house of one Babu Mia from unknown location that sharply spread to the adjacent areas, in which 14 dwelling houses completely were reduced to the ashes damaging all the properties. The loss was ascertained primarily nearly at Taka one lakh. The fire brigade from Gaibandha rushed to the spot but it was extinguished before they had arrived.

Huge quantity of books distributed in Magura, Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, Feb 5: District Primary Education Department, (DPED), Magura distributed about 81 thousand sets of book free of cost among the primary school student in Magura district during the current academic year, it was learnt.

According to the sources, the students of government and non-government primary school of Magura sadar, Sripur, Shalikka and Mui-amdappur thana in the district will be benefitted for distribution of books free of cost.

Besides, DPED, Jhenidah distributed about two lakh 21,000 sets of book among the students of Jhenidah district during the current academic season, sources said.

It was learnt from the sources that DPED, Jhenidah distributed 59,000 sets of book in Jhenidah sadar, 47,000 sets in Saikupa, 35,500 sets in Kaligonj, 21,600 sets in Kotchandpur, 36,000 sets in Moheshpur and 22,000 sets in Harina Kunda thanas.

About 2 lakh 700 students of primary schools in Jhenidah district will be benefitted for distribution of the books.

Severe power crisis hits farming in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent
JAMALPUR, Feb 5: Jamalpur district has come under the onslaught of power crisis leading to frequent loadshedding in the district. Consequently, suffering of the people of the district mounted as most areas at the district plunge into darkness for several hours after evening almost regularly.

Besides frequent loadshedding affect the economy of this area triggering worries among the industrialists, entrepreneurs, businessmen and farmers.

Mills and factories of Sarishabari, Dewanganj, Me-

landah, Islampur area have been facing production losses due to unplanned loadshedding, sources said.

Many mills and factories failed to meet the delivery order for their products due to power failure, sources added.

The residents, however, blamed the Power Development Board (PDB) whose officials attributed the power crisis to poor supply from gridline and fall in power generation at Kaptai hydro-electric project from 230 mw to 130 mw regularly.

The water level of Kaptai Lake marked a record fall be-

tween 80 msl and 90 msl, affecting the operation at four of its five units, official said.

Talking to this reporter the Executive Engineer of PDB in Jamalpur said, due to heavy demand of irrigation this season, water level of Kaptai Lake had continued to fall alarmingly hindering the power generation.

Earlier during the months from mid January to mid May every year, Jamalpur experienced power crisis worst of its kind in recent years, that caused economic losses amounting to hundreds of crores of taka.

Bhomra can play significant role as a land port

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Feb 5: The people especially the business communities of Satkhira district has been demanding setting up a landport at Bhomra under sadar thana of Satkhira, which is quite capable of playing a significant role in the southwestern zone of the country. But the government seems to be apathetic to materialise the scheme. Importers and exporters are therefore found to be very much dismayed, rather a growing sense of resentment prevails in them.

Benapole is the main tangible land port facilitating trade line between India and Bangladesh. An average amount of 4 lakh tonnes of goods are brought and sold annually through Benapole land port and with the ever increasing trade situation, pressure upon this port is too heavy.

According to official sources, about 3 lakh 56 thousand tonnes of goods were transacted through this port during the period of 1992-93 financial year and the figure rose to 4 lakh 32 thousand tonnes during the 1993-94 financial year.

Consequently traffic jam is constant feature in respect of goods and passengers movement on the both side of the

border. Traffic jam is creating immense problem to passengers and goods. So the business communities of the zone have urged upon the authorities concerned to set up an alternative land port at Bhomra.

Despite all those measures, Bhomra land port, can nevertheless be ignored as this is an entry gate to the southwestern zone.

A custom outpost was established at Bhomra in 1947 with an EPR camp. Due to underdeveloped road-communication, gopata, turtles, fish, tetulbichi, betel leaf of the Sundarbans used to be exported to India through different canals and river routes. The custom outpost as such was closed during the 1965 war between India and Pakistan.

But the situations having been changed after the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, the custom outpost was re-established at Bhomra and since then exporters and importers kept on their demand of transforming Bhomra custom outpost into full-fledged landport. After bringing amendments to Bangladesh Baggage Rule in 1993-94 the customs outpost at Bhomra registered a significant increase of its revenue

income and it stood at Taka 6 lakh during the first three months in 1995.

The establishment of a fullfledged landport at Bhomra, in fact would open up a new horizon in the economic sphere of the southwestern zone of the country.

Some infrastructural development is just necessary for transforming Bhomra into a fullfledged landport such as Satkhira-Bhomra road link and connecting the same with Khulna-Dhaka highway so that heavy transports may ply, setting up of entrance and exit counter of the customs, arrangement of adequate security system, setting up of the branches of commercial banks, modern fire extinguishing apparatus and equipment etc.

Some natural products in the Sundarbans such as crabs, turtles, honey, waxes, grain, tetul bichi, betel leaf, gol pata etc are of high demand in India which can be early exported to India through the proposed landport at Bhomra with the minimum expenditure and thereby importers, exporters as well as the government may reap a good harvest of foreign exchange earnings to boost up economic flourishment.

25 lakh MT of boro paddy expected from Rajshahi Div

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Feb 4: The agriculture department has undertaken an elaborate programme of Irr-Boro cultivation during the current season in the northern districts of Rajshahi Division. A target has been fixed to bring out 8,28,800 hectares of land under the programme, official sources here said.

It is hoped that about 25.70 lakh metric tons of Boro paddy will be produced during the season in these 16 northern districts.

The Agriculture Extension Department has already taken necessary measures to make the cultivation programme successful. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO), Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMNA) and some other nongovernment organizations are distributing seeds, fertilisers and pesticides among the farmers.

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank and other nationalised and commercial banks have decided to distribute crop loans for Irrio-Boro cultivation. It is hoped that the damage of aman paddy during the last season caused by repeated devastating floods can be compensated by high yield of Boro paddy during the current season.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department districtwise, targets of lands are: 30,500 hectares in Rajshahi, 89,200 hectares in Naogaon, 50,500 hectares in Natore, 17,500 hectares in Chapai Nawabganj, 1,80,700 hectares in Bogra, 51,500 hectares in Joypurhat, 15,000 hectares in Feni, 59 hectares in Naliganj, 66,650 hec-

tares in Govtbandha, 18,700 hectares in Kurigram, 20,300 hectares in Lalmonirhat, 24,300 hectares in Nilphamari, 58,000 hectares in Dinajpur, 5,100 hectares in Panchagarh and 23,200 hectares in Thakurgaon districts.

Office bearers of Mymensingh Bar Assoc

From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Feb 5: A 15-member executive committee of Mymensingh District Bar Association has recently been elected with Alhaj AKM Manjurul Haque and Md Abdul Aziz as president and general secretary respectively, reports BSS.

Other office bearers are Vice-President: Aftabuddin Bhuiyan and GM Anwar Husain, assistant secretaries Abul Kalam Md Azad, Manjur Anam and Rashedul Haque, auditor AKM Hahsdullah.

Seven elected members are: Mrs Afia Akhter, Abul Kasem Musa, Md Khalil Meah, Nazrul Islam, Shafigul Islam Swapan, Shafigul Ahmed Suza and Md Sirajul Hoque.

A total of 487 voters out of 509 cast their votes in the election.

UP chairman imprisoned for misappropriating rice

JHENIDAH, Feb 5: A Union Parishad chairman was awarded two years imprisonment for misappropriating rice of some projects in Kalliganj thana of the district on Sunday last, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, chairman of Bagura union, Nurul Islam, misappropriated 80 maunds of rice allocated for three projects of test relief in March 24, 1990.

Assistant Special Judge, Begum Kabita Khanam, in her verdict also fined the convict Tk 5,000, in default to suffer more two months imprisonment.

Registration scandal Payment of salary to 382 head teachers stopped

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Feb 5: Payment of salary to head teachers of 382 education schools and Jessore Education Board (JEB) has been stopped for a period of one year effective

from September last by Education Ministry following their involvement in registration scandal of 15,000 candidates who were barred from appearing at SSC examinations to JEB held in 1995.

This action has been taken against them as punitive measures on the basis of report by enquiry committee, formed earlier in this connection.

This was informed by Acting Chairman, and Controller of Examination, JEB, Professor Md Nazim Uddin while talking to The Daily Star when asked what actions have been taken against board's 23 officers and staff members who were found involved in the scandal, he said that one Deputy Controller, one Deputy Inspector of schools and senior assistant, have been given forced retirement and others reinstated on various conditions.

Another source, on condition of anonymity told that discontent was mounting among teachers against this decision of the authority.

3 bank officials suspended

JHENIDAH, Feb 5: Three bank officials have been put under suspension here on Sunday last for missing a large amount of money from the bank's locker, reports UNB.

Official sources said, Fazlur Rahman, Manager of Sonali Bank Mobarakgonj Sugar Mills Branch, cashier Aliur Rahman and night guard Dharendra Nath Biswas were suspended from the service following missing of an amount of Tk 23,10,600.

Divisional Bank officials and police suspected that the suspended officials might be involved in the misappropriation of the cash that occurred last Wednesday.

11 awarded life-term

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Feb 5: Eleven persons were awarded life-term imprisonment under section 302 on charge of killing.

Additional District and Session Judge Md Shahidullah delivered the judgement on Jan 31 against the accused for killing one Nurul Haque of village Daulatpur in Nikli thana recently.

The convicts are Nurul Islam, Taher, Hafizuddin, Giasuddin, Abdul Hamid, Shukur Mahmud, Shahabuddin, Nuru, Fazlu, Abdul Ali and Anar. Of them Taher, Giasuddin, Shahabuddin and Nuru has been absconding and they were tried in absentia.

The court also found eighteen persons not guilty and they were acquitted of the charge.

The prosecution case in brief is that the accused equipped with lethal weapons attacked Nurul Haque while a meeting was going on to select the manager of a power pump scheme in Daulatpur village. They killed Nurul Haque on the spot and later concealed the body after cutting it into pieces.

A case was registered with Nikli police station.

BDR special raids in 1995 Smuggling goods worth Tk 17 cr seized from borders of Satkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Feb 5: The BDR personnel of 21 battalion under Satkhira district recovered smuggled goods amounting to Taka 17 crore 61 lakh 87 thousand 6 hundred 92 in separate anti-smuggling drives at different bordering areas of the district during the last one year. A total of 216 alleged smugglers were also arrested and 237 cases were filed with respective police stations during the anti-smuggling drives during the period.

According to BDR official sources, acting on a tip off, the BDR jawans launching anti-smuggling drives recovered a huge quantity of smuggled goods worth Taka 17,61,87,692 from bordering

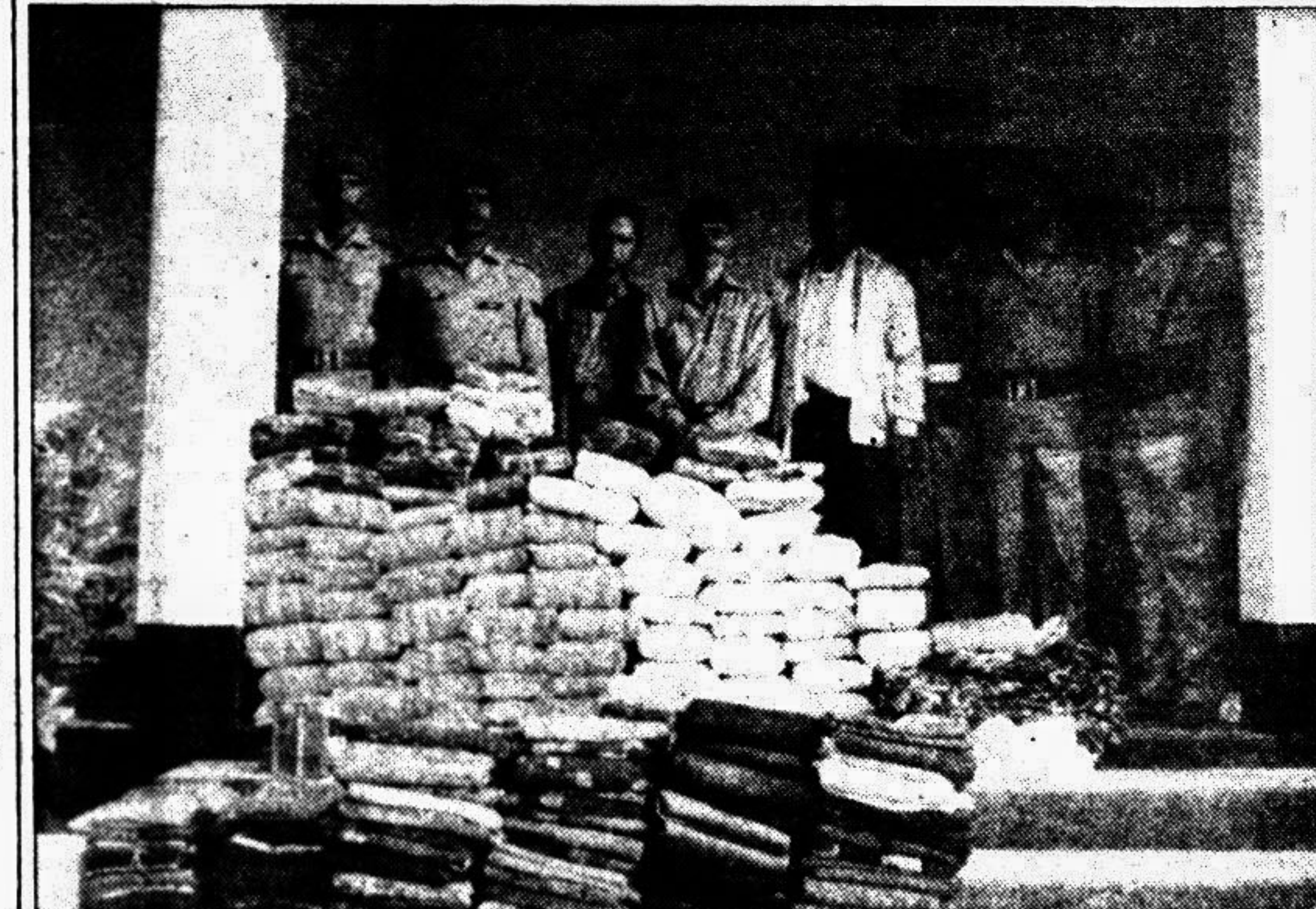
areas of the district during the period commencing from January '95 to December '95 last.

Of the total, smuggled goods worth Taka 17 crore 11 lakh 38 thousand 3 hundred 97 were seized while being smuggled into Bangladesh from India and smuggled goods worth Taka 50 lakh 49 thousand 2 hundred 95 were seized while being smuggled out of Bangladesh to India during the last one year. As a result, it is noticed that a huge quantity of Indian smuggled goods are coming into the country from India.

The recovered smuggled goods included Indian saree, salt, sugar, pulse, phensidyl,

syrup, medicine, blouse piece, cosmetic, electronic goods, spices, spare parts, bicycle, bi-cycle parts, motor spares, rickshaw, cloth stick, blade, matches, steel plates, steel bowl, eggs, mustard oil, coconut oil, drug, hide and skin, cow, playing card, hairoil, fruits, gamaxin powder, onion.

According to sources, the main smuggling spots are: Bhomra, Padma, Shakra, Shakhra, Tahigacha, Balkari, Ghana, Kuskhali, Debbata, Kakkanga, Madva, Rudrapur, Goga, Kaiba, Town Sree Pur from where the BDR jawans launching anti-smuggling drives seized the maximum smuggled goods.



View of some goods seized by the BDR personnel during their anti-smuggling raid. — Star photo

Clothes worth Tk 20 lakh gutted in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Feb 5: Clothes worth about Tk 20 lakh were gutted in a fire at a shop in the town's New Market area on last Saturday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the fire originating from electric short circuit totally destroyed all the clothes of Nipun Cloth Shop within minutes.

Later, fire fighters rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after an hour-long effort.

Two alleged thieves caught red-handed

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Feb 5: Two alleged thieves were caught red-handed by the villagers while returning after committing theft in two houses of village Achmita in Katiadi thana on Jan 26.

The thieves entered the houses of Abul Kashem and Abdul Motaleb by cutting earth and decamped with goods. While they were passing through the village, the villagers challenged them and caught two of them named Jalal and Badsha Mia along with some booty. They were later handed over to the police. A case was registered with Katiadi police station.

10,000 acres of farm land in Habiganj will remain fallow

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Feb 5: About ten thousand acres of cultivable lands will remain fallow in different thanas of Habiganj during the current Boro season. It is apprehended. The farmers of the district will also be deprived of 4 lakh maunds of paddy during the season. Drought, acute crisis of fertilizer and seeds of improved varieties are the main causes for the apprehended shortfall, source claimed.

A source of the District Agriculture office informed this correspondent that, the target for cultivation of Boro paddy in the Habiganj district has been fixed at one lakh 97 thousand 186 acres of land. The target of paddy produc-

tion had been fixed at 2 lakh 40 thousand 800 tonnes.

Boro crops on about 25 thousand acres were damaged due to Drought, crisis of fertilizer and seeds and others input in the district, the source confirmed.

Almost every year standing crops on several thousand acres of land go under water when the flood hits the region. Damage of Boro paddy by the 'early floods in the moths of Chaitra and Baishakh in the Habiganj sadar, Lakhal, and Bamachang thanas have become a regular affair for the last few years.

Irrigation crisis has also become a serious obstacle as most of the canals, beels and rivers have been drying up.

One gets 10 yrs' RI for raping girl

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Feb 5: A K Mostafa, Assistant Session and Special Tribunal Judge, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered on Jan 31 sentenced one Ahmed Ali of village Pudda in Bajitpur thana to suffer RI for 10 years on charge of raping a girl. The court also acquitted three others.

According to the prosecution in the afternoon of April 1, 1993, Mamata Begum, daughter of Moseleuddin was on way to her sister's house at village Daulatpur in Nikli thana while the accused stopped her at Motkhol and later forcibly took her to a house of Baligaon village. She was raped there.

A case was registered with Bajitpur police and after investigation charge-sheet was submitted against four persons.

Kurigram High School celebrates 100 yrs of its establishment

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, Feb 5: The centenary ceremony of Kurigram High School was held recently at the school compound.

All dignitaries, elites and ex-students of Kurigram attended the ceremony with great zeal and vigour.

Former students of the esteemed high school, established a hundred years ago in 1895, gathered together to exchange their views and opinions.

The ceremony continued for two consecutive days, and included tree plantation, rally, recollection from early school days, cultural functions, dramas, prize giving to bright students, both past and present, distribution of magazines.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Abu Waheed, Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram, who unveiled the curtain of centenary memorial stone.



KURIGRAM: The ex-students of Kurigram High School from all over the country brought out a rally on the occasion of the centenary ceremony of the school held at Kurigram town recently. — Star photo