

Electric motors of DTWs being stolen

PABNA, Mar 3: Electric motors of the Deep Tubewells (DTW) are being stolen by a gang from different villages in Sadar thana at night hampering the irri-boro cultivation, reports UNB.

Clash over cutting tree: 8 injured at Daulatpur

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Mar 3: A bloody clash ensued recently between two rival groups armed with deadly weapons over cutting road side trees in village Jhodia under Refayetpur union of Daulatpur thana causing injury to eight persons seriously.

Measles in serious turn in Meherpur

From Our Correspondent MEHERPUR, Mar 3: Measles has broken out in Meherpur district in an epidemic form. Hundreds of children have become the victims of this disease even after taking inoculation.

Two killed in Ullapara road mishap

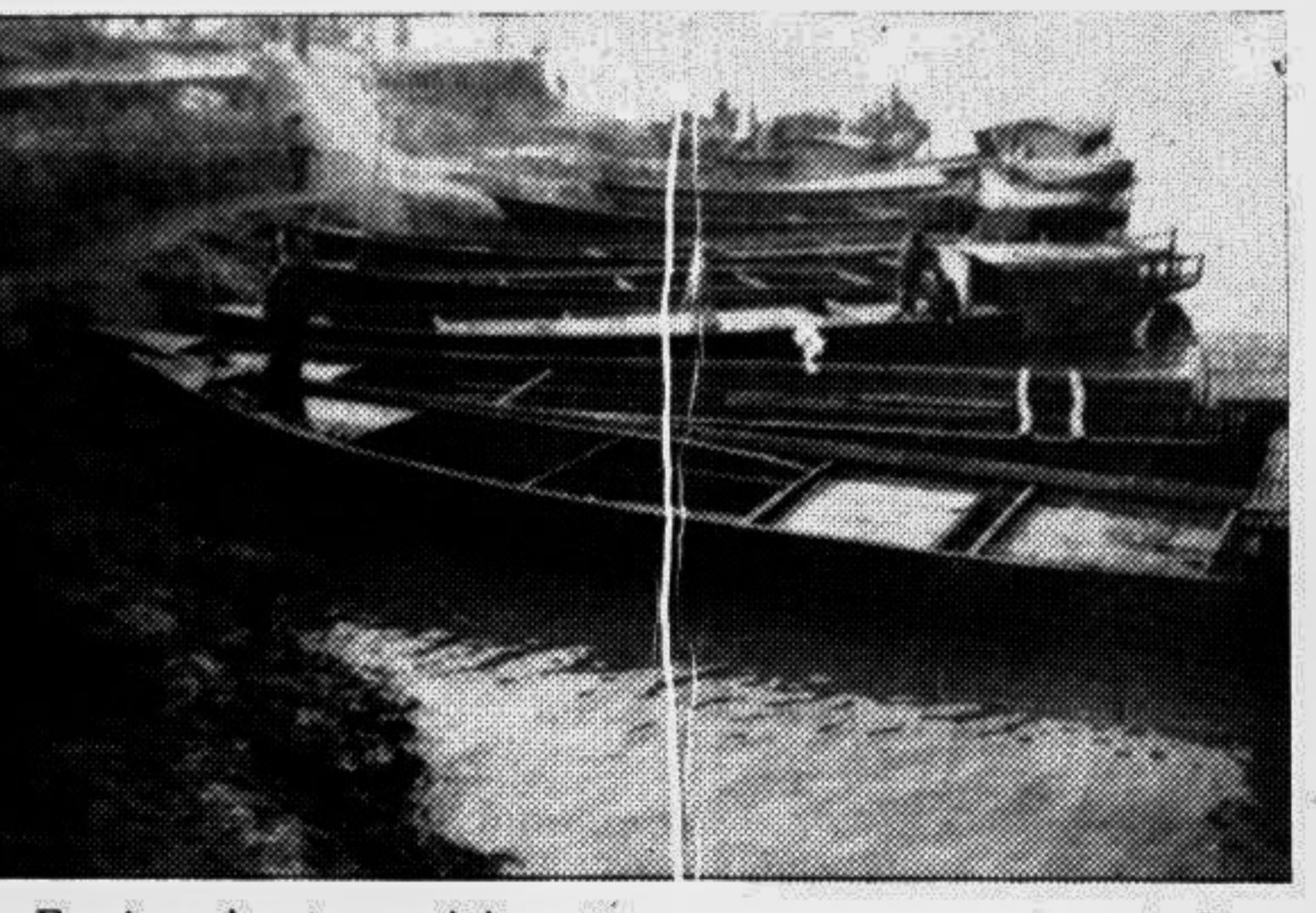
SIRAJGANJ, Mar 3: Two people were killed and five others injured when a truck rolled into a ditch on Bogra-Nagarbari highway at Jonglipur in Ullapara thana Sunday, reports UNB.

The mighty Brahmaputra turning into a canal

From Md Meherullah



A railway ferry, MV Sarwardi lying stranded at Kalasona point on last Wednesday after it hit a hidden shoal in the mid-stream of Jamuna river. — Star photo



Engine boats waiting to carry passengers at Bahadurabad ghat last week as ferry services at the ghat remained suspended. — Star photo



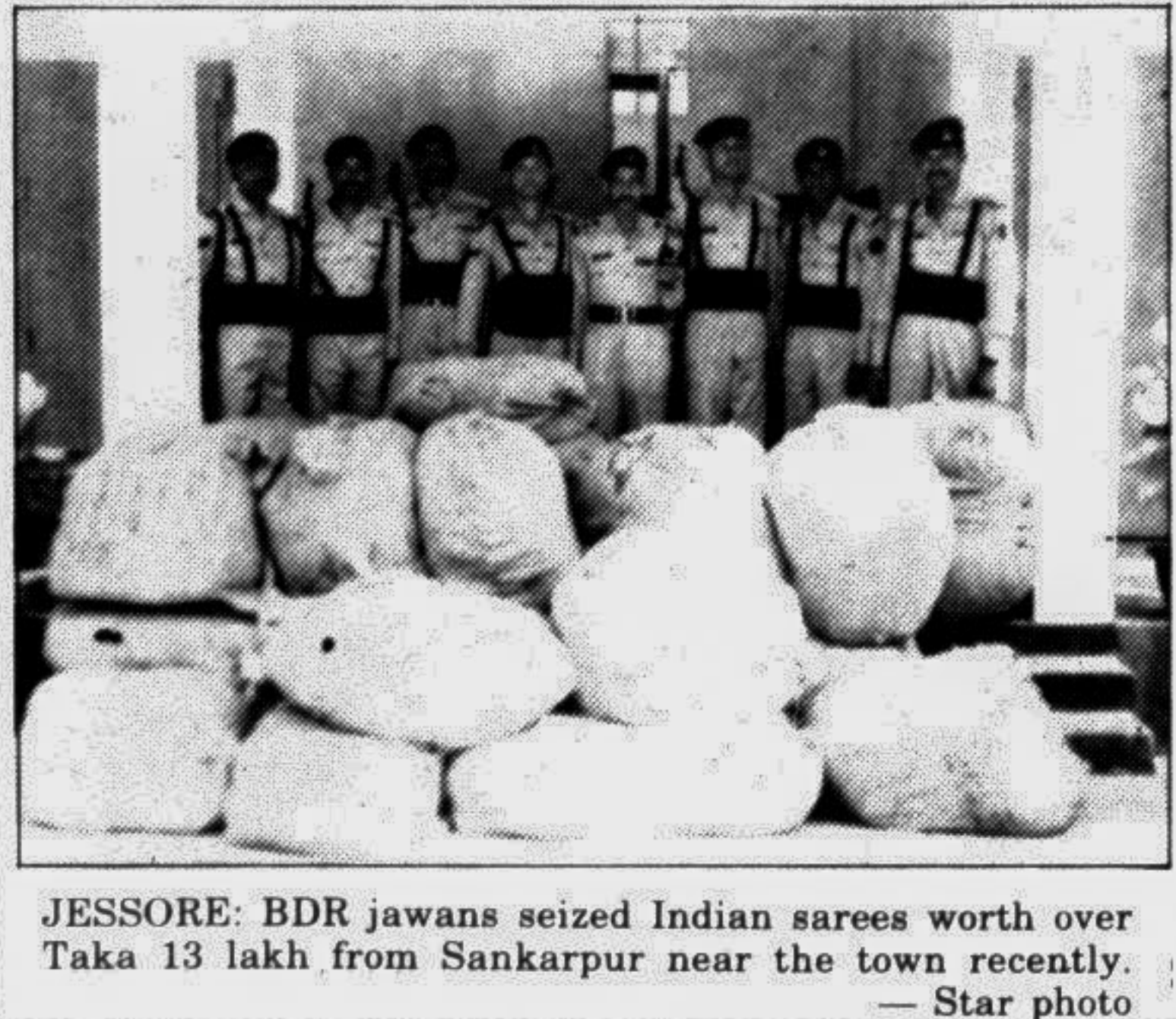
Railway passengers crossing the river Jamuna at Bahadurabad ghat heading for Teestamukh ghat. — Star photo

JAMALPUR, Mar 3: The Brahmaputra river is turning into a canal due to rapid siltation. It lost its original current from its source of the eastern Himalayas down to its mouth.

From Dewanganj, Nalitabari, Jamalpur town to Mymensingh to Bhairab Bazar where the river meets Meghna it has created thousands of shoals and sand banks on its way.

People cross the Brahmaputra walking these days. A brisk business is being carried out digging sand and dumping those on the bank for sale.

M A Jalil, a day labourer of Nandina bazar area, under Jamalpur sadar thana said he along with other colleagues come down to Brahmaputra everyday to dig sand which provides them means of living. He earns Taka 55 a day.



JESSORE: BDR jawans seized Indian sarees worth over Taka 13 lakh from Sankarpur near the town recently. — Star photo

not blame any one for our misfortune of not having water in Brahmaputra. In reply to a question why Brahmaputra is running dry, an engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), Mymensingh, said the seventeenth century earthquake has caused this river to adopt a major change.

Centuries ago the river was flowing through Bahadurabad ghat as Jamuna-Brahmaputra. There were torrential stream. But due to severe earthquake its course had been diverted and it ran through Mymensingh-Shambhuganj.

There is tremendous siltation all along the length of the river and dredging is very expensive, the WDB official said. Dredging at this stage cannot bring any fortune.

In reply to a question whether the river would totally dry up in future, the Executive Engineer of WDB of Tangail zone said, "This is not true, we have signed a water treaty with India, we

are hopeful about retrieving the flow of the river." The present picture of the Brahmaputra river is very grave. Ferry services of Ghenai, Jamalpur-Sherpur, Jamalpur-Shanadabari, Jamalpur-Mymensingh and Jamalpur-Sharishabari still remain suspended.

Meanwhile, the water transport including ferries and country made boats plying between Jagannathganj ghat-Siraganj ghat, Bahadurabad ghat-Teestamukh ghat, Bahadurabad ghat-Chilmari ghat, have to cover additional distance of four to five miles to reach destinations, local launch owners said.

Besides, the narrow passage near Kultur char, Kalasona ghat three miles upstream from Bahadurabad ghat is about to be abandoned, according to witnesses.

It is learnt that BIWTA has undertaken a plan for dredging of the river Jamuna at many points. Bahadurabad ghat-Teestamukh ghat route may also face heavy siltation problem and ultimately the distribution of essential items including fertilizers and fuel to the northern district may shut down.

Meanwhile, country-made mechanized boats have become the main river transport for carrying passengers and merchandise. At present over one thousand such engine boats have been plying on different routes of the district.

15 get life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent NATORE, Mar 3: At least 15 persons were convicted for a murder and sentenced to suffer life-term imprisonment each.

Each of them was also fined Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer another 3 months' rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The convicted persons are: Anwar Hossain, Dulu Mia, Salam, Zohrool, Izzat Ali, Abdul Kader, Baten, Nurul Islam, Abdul Khaleq, Nurul Rahman and Amin.

The prosecution alleged that Monir, 30, of Gouripur village under Sadar thana of the district was killed on May 25 '94 near the house of accused Dulu Mia at the same village.

Sadar police submitted chargesheet against the accused persons after investigation. Sirajul Islam, District and Session Judge, Natore, while delivering his judgement on February 27, awarded the above verdict against those 15 persons.

10 hurt in clash over land dispute

From Our Correspondent KAPTALI (Rangamati), Mar 3: A total of 10 persons were officially listed as injured, five fatally in a clash erupted following a land dispute between two brothers at Raikhali Kazibari in Kaptali thana of the district Thursday morning.

The critically injured five, victims of sharp and lethal weapons, were admitted Thursday in the Chandraghona Christian Mission Hospital, were again shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state with multiple grievous wounds the next day.

The five who were rounded up in this connection were identified as Rubi Akhtar, 25, Anwar Begum, 28, Sakina Begum, 45, Monowara Begum, 18 and Rina Ara Begum, 16. The arrested were sent to Rangamati court, police sources said.

Two brothers in the Kazi family were locked in quarrel after exchanging hot talks on a land dispute Thursday morning. At one stage, they attacked each other along with their supporters with lethal weapons injuring 10 persons on the spot.

A case was lodged with Kaptali thana police in this connection.

Brahmaputra erodes huge areas of land in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Mar 3: About four kilometre areas from Chirakuti to Rasoolpur of Gaibandha district along the western bank of river Brahmaputra adjacent down stream of FAP-21 groyne project are being hard hit by the continuous erosion.

Meanwhile, every day huge areas of cultivable land together with home-stead, trees and bamboo groves are being eroded away by the surging water of river Brahmaputra. Within the last three months about 1,500 families of villages Rasoolpur, Sayedpur, Baguria, Faldighop, Anarchara, Dhutichora rendered shelterless due to strong erosion.

The Flood Action Plan (FAP-21) project could not produce any effective result in respect to controlling erosion in the district. Under FAP-21 project six groyne were constructed at Dhutichora which now stands on a huge area of sandy desert.

The main current of the river Brahmaputra has turned toward western bank by passing FAP protection scheme instead of eastern destination. The erosion turned serious along four kilometres of western bank adjacent down stream of FAP-21.

In 1993 under FAP project six groyne were constructed spending Taka two hundred crore with a view to protecting 25 kilometre area from Gideri under Gaibandha sadar thana to Fulchari thana headquarters along western bank of river Brahmaputra. Under this experimental project, France, Germany and Netherland extended all financial and technical assistance. The work of the project was however completed by 1995.

In June '95 a portion of main monitoring groyne made of steel pipe was damaged and a large chunk of adjacent ring embankment was washed away by the high velocity of flood water.

As a result the future of FAP-21 project plunged into darkness. However, next dry season the damaged groyne and embankment were repaired for further monitoring the activities of the project.

A rapid change was noticed in the flow of river current during mid-1996. Just after the completion of FAP project main stream for the time being was removed to eastern block but surprisingly from the month of August '96 the flow of current rebounded and hit the areas of western bank forming shape of a large scale erosion. The erosion now has taken a serious turn and hit from sixth groyne of FAP to four kilometre long areas. Facing rapid erosion temporary staff quarters of foreign experts and workers were removed to safe place.

Rahimuddin, an old villager of Dhutichora told The Daily Star that about 200 families were rendered homeless during the last month since the erosion started hitting the areas.

Live programme of Betar from Gaibandha. From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, Mar 3: The Bangladesh Betar, Rangpur will broadcast an hour long live programme on population and agriculture directly from open stage erected at Gaibandha Shadhinata Prangon ground on February 26 at 5 pm.

Meanwhile, Rangpur Betar authorities completed all possible arrangement for broadcasting live programme.

700 bottles of Indian phensidyl recovered: 1 held

GAZIPUR, Mar 3: A special team of Narcotics Control Department of Dhaka range recently arrested one person and recovered 700 bottles of Indian phensidyl from Masimpur village under Tongi Pourashava, reports BSS.

Police sources said, the value of recovered phensidyl is about Taka two lakh.

A case has been registered with Tongi thana in this connection. Police sources further said, 149 bottles of phensidyl were recovered on February 16 and two persons were arrested from Mariali under Tongi thana.

Indian tortoise worth Tk 5 lakh seized

SATKHIRA, Mar 3: Police seized a huge quantity of Indian tortoise from two Jessore-bound trucks at Palesphole in the district on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the trucks and recovered the tortoise worth above Tk five lakh.

A case was filed with Kalaroa thana.

Sylhet Manpower Office gheraoed

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Mar 3: The returnees from Kuwait and Iraq gheraoed the Labour and Manpower Office here for 5 hours from 11am Tuesday to press demand for immediate payment of compensation money given by the United Nations.

The gherao programme was organised by the Sylhet divisional unit of the Kuwait-Iraq Returnees Association.

At a meeting, the speakers called upon the government to accept their demand by March 15. Otherwise, they said they would announce a fresh agitation programme.

11 including 2 magistrates hurt in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Mar 3: Eleven persons including two magistrates received severe injuries in a road mishap when a truck loaded with question papers of SSC examinations dashed with a road side tree in the morning on February 27.

According to police, a truck Dhaka-NA-6258 loaded with SSC question papers and other materials for Rangpur, Gaibandha and Kurigram districts came to Gaibandha at night of February 26. After delivery of the consignment of Gaibandha, the said truck headed towards Rangpur in the morning of February 27. When it reached near Goreya bridge on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway it dashed with a road side tree after the driver had lost control over the wheel. Due to impact of the collision the front part of the truck damaged completely.

injury 11 persons including the Assistant Commissioner of Kurigram Rafiqul Islam, magistrate Nurul Islam Chowdhury of Rangpur and nine other police personnel. The injured persons were admitted to Palashbari Health Complex.

Later Assistant Commissioner Rafiqul Islam, magistrate Nurul Islam, Sadek, 25, Shahan Khan, 30, Naik Mozhar, 35, Habibul Anis, 45, were removed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

After receiving the information ADC (Gen), TNO, Palashbari and OC, Palashbari rushed to the spot and recovered all the materials from ill-fated truck and despatched those to Rangpur with another truck. The driver of the truck, however, managed to flee.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Directorate Office of the Executive Engineer District: Manikganj Memo No: LGED/EE/Manik/C-96/1004 Dated: 10-11-1403BS/22-02-1997 Tender Notice No-12/96-97

স্বদেশী পণ্য ক্রিতে হও ধন্য স্বদেশী সুলভ বাংলাদেশ ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প করপোরেশন ১৩৭/১৩৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০ টেন্ডার নোটিশ