

News snaps

Padma erosion renders 5000 homeless

PABNA, Aug 22: About 5000 people of Sadar and Ishurdi thanas were rendered homeless by the unabated erosion of the river Padma during the last week, reports UNB.

M. Mosharaf Hossain, chairman of Varara union parishad told on Tuesday that Khashchar Dhokrakole, Char Bhabanipur, Char Varara and Raninagar villages were totally washed away during the period rendering 5000 people of 1000 families homeless. About 3000 affected people took shelter on flood control embankment. Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, Mahbubur Rahman distributed some relief materials among the homeless people.

Alleged terrorist arrested

JESSORE, Aug 22: Police arrested a notorious terrorist on Friday from a border village in Chowgacha thana of the district, reports UNB.

Police said Khater Ali, member of an outlawed party and accused in several cases including five murder cases, was arrested from Shyamnagar village. On the basis of his confessional statement police seized 13 rounds of bullets, a hand bomb and materials for making bombs from Dashpakra village in Sadar thana.

Dialogue on trafficking of women

COMILLA, Aug 22: A dialogue with the local journalists on arousing awareness to combat trafficking of women and children was held here recently, reports BSS.

Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) organised this dialogue with the cooperation of Page, a voluntary organisation. Prof Ishrat Shamim, president of CWCS, Prof Lokman Hakim, Chief Coordinator, Page, Md Yunus and Rokeya Begum participated in the dialogue with 15 local journalists of different newspapers and news agencies.

Abductor arrested

JAMALPUR, Aug 22: Police arrested an accused gang-leader of abductors recently from Chhontia Bazar in Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Police said one Ujjal and his 10 other accomplices abducted school girl Samira, 14, on her way to school on July 7. The girl was rescued from a village here after a few days of continuous search. Since then, police hunt was on in different places and they succeeded in arresting Ujjal on Friday. Police sources said some influential people were active to get release of Ujjal which, they said, would hamper the drive to arrest other accused.

Research on bio-diversity

TANGAIL, Aug 22: Compartmental Pilot Project (CPP) is conducting a scientific research on bio-diversity in its project area, reports BSS.

Four scientists including professor doctors Syed Hadiuzzaman, Dr Kh Maniruzzaman, Md Kamruzzaman and Nazir Rahman are working in this research programme.

2 killed in Cox's Bazar road accident

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 22: Two people were killed and 10 others injured when a microbus collided with a truck at Bangla Bazar on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway on Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said the victims could not be identified immediately as the mishap occurred at about 8 pm. Six of the injured were rushed to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

206 anti-social elements held

KHULNA, Aug 22: Police arrested 206 anti-social elements and recovered 11 illegal arms in special raids conducted in 10 districts of Khulna division in three days, reports BSS.

Police also recovered 258 bullets, seven cartridges, four explosives and two daggers from the arrested persons. The recovered arms were one country made revolver, one pistol, two pipe guns, three light guns and four other arms.

Khas land distributed

JHENIDAH, Aug 22: About 2,500 acres of khas land were distributed among 5,200 homeless couples in six thanas of the district during the last two years, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 131 acres were distributed in Jhenidah sadar thana, 900 acres in Shaikhpura, 200 acres in Harinakunda, 100 acres in Kaliganj, 150 acres in Kotchandpur and 1,000 acres in Moheshkhali thanas.

255 uplift projects implemented

NETRAKONA, Aug 22: A total of 255 uplift projects were implemented in different unions of Netrakona sadar thana under Annual Development Programme of the government during the last financial year, reports BSS.

Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Netrakona sadar S M Abdul Baten told that government sanctioned Taka 33 lakhs for implementation of the ADP projects. The projects were implemented on different sectors including education, agriculture, communication and sports, the TNO said.

One killed in Satkhira road accident

SATKHIRA, Aug 22: One person was killed in a road accident near at Pirojpur bus stand on Kaliganj-Shyamnagar road recently, reports BSS.

Police source said, a speedy motor-cycle coming from Shyamnagar hit a man while he was crossing the road. He succumbed to his injuries at Kaliganj Health Complex. The victim was identified as Tara Pouda Ghosh of village Dayagram under Kaliganj thana. A case was filed with Kaliganj thana police in this connection.

74 lawyers' enrolment cancelled

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 22: Bangladesh Bar Council has cancelled the enrolment of 74 lawyers of the district as the validity of their certificates expired long ago, reports UNB.

Sources said many members of the District Bar Association did not renew their enrolment and paid contributions to the council's Benevolent Fund for 10 to 15 years. Cancellation letters, issued on August 7 by Bar Council secretary MG Mostafa and Alhaj ANM Yusuf of Endorsement Committee received by the association on August 16 said 74 lawyers should stop legal practice under the relevant rule of the Bar Council.

Poultry farm on verge of extinction

MADARIPUR, Aug 22: The existence of lone government poultry farm in the district is on the verge of extinction, reports UNB.

At present, the farm does not produce eggs although there has been a great demand for it in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts. Moreover, production of chicken has been suspended causing problems to the buyers. Now, only three and a half months old chickens are being sold in the farm. For this, many small traders go back without eggs. There is no ducks in the farm, situated in the district headquarters. The poultry farm set up in 1993 failed to meet the demand of the buyers, local people alleged.

Girl killed in Sirajganj road accident

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 22: A teenage girl was killed in a road accident at the town's Dhanbandhi JC road on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said the victim Jahanara Khatun, 18, while going to the river side in a rickshaw was hit by a private car at about 10 pm. She died on the spot. Police arrested the driver Sayedur Rahman, 30. The body was sent to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with the police.

Mourning Day observed in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Aug 22: National Mourning Day commemorating the 22nd death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed on August 15 in Chandpur district in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The day's programmes included Quran khwani, mourning procession, milad mahfil, discussion meeting, essay and painting competitions. The national flag was hoisted half mast on all government and non-government office buildings.

Juba League leader killed in road accident

PATUAKHALI, Aug 22: A local leader of Juba League was killed in a road accident of Patuakhali-Barisal highway near Gabua in Sadar thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Abul Kalam Azad, 30, died on the spot when a Patuakhali-bound bus knocked him down in the afternoon. Police seized the bus, but the driver fled the scene.

3 bridges inaugurated

BAGERHAT, Aug 22: State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque inaugurated three bridges in Mongla thana area here recently, reports BSS.

The bridges were constructed at a total cost of Taka 1.56 crore on Barakumari Khal and Chotokumari Khal. The bridges have facilitated easy communications between Mongla thana headquarters and different unions.

No election held in N'ganj Pourasava for nine years

From Eshanul Haque

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 22: No election was held in Narayanganj Pourasava in nine years.

The 111-year-old pourasava was being run by government nominated administrators for nine years. But now there is no administrator to run its affairs.

The Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry appointed Abu Hasanat Mohammed Shaheed Badal, General Secretary of Narayanganj district Juba League, youth front of Awami League and Vice-President of Government Tolaram College Students' Union as administrator of the Pourasava on June 18, 1997.

But the appointment of Badal was stayed by the High Court upon a writ petition filed by Taimur Alam Khandaker on June 26. Since then, the Narayanganj Pourasava has been running without any administrator.

Then the LGRD Ministry ordered the Chief Executive Officer and the Secretary to jointly operate the financial and administrative works of the pourasava. But the ministry order contradicts the Municipality Act of 1977 which bars anybody to conduct financial and administrative activities of a pourasava in absence of its chairman or administrator or the acting administrator.

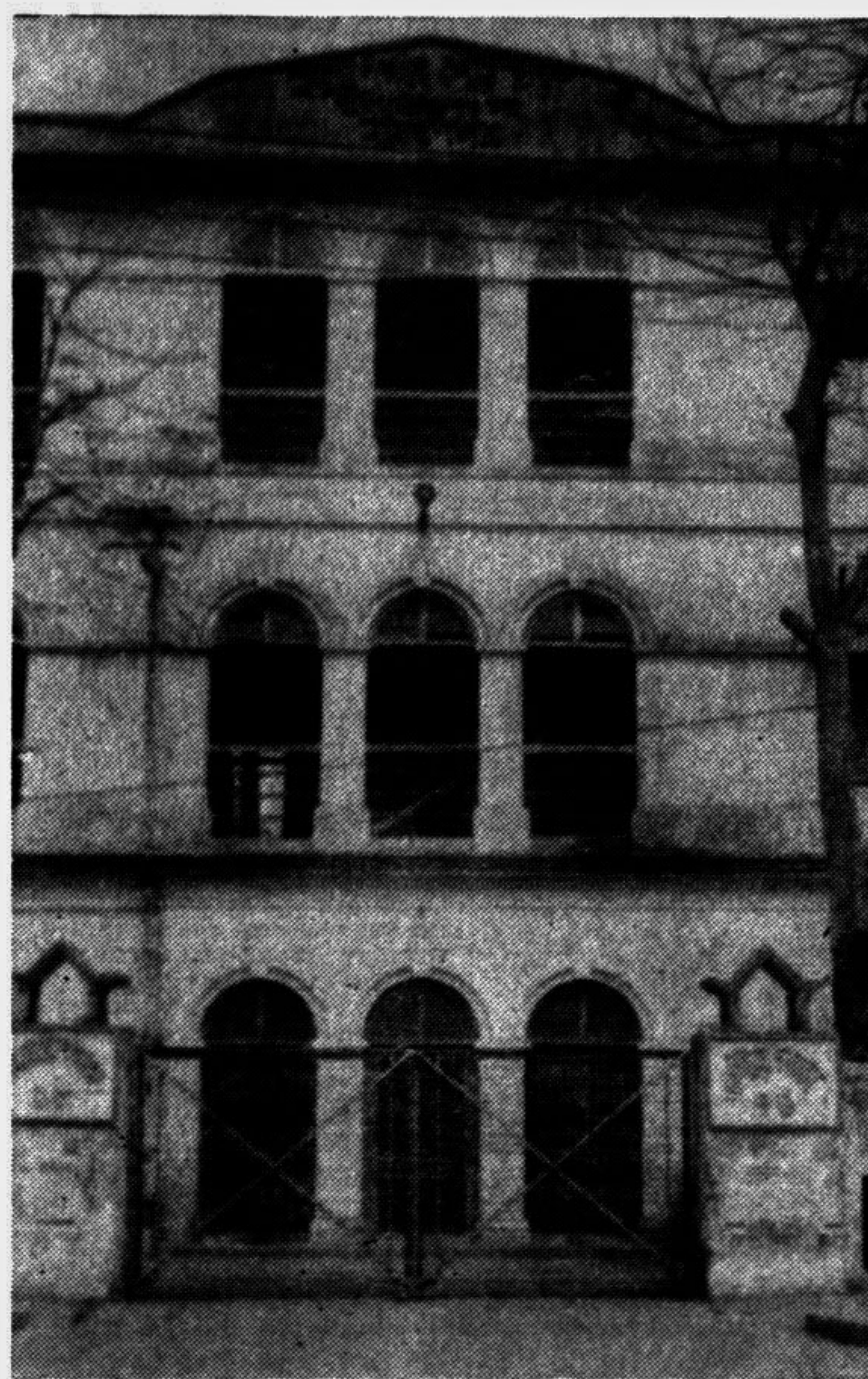
Due to the above mentioned legal complications, appointments of sanitary inspectors and some other essential posts are now pending although applications for those positions were accepted two months ago.

Furthermore, floating tenders to repair two out of five garbage trucks and damaged roads were not possible. Shortage of garbage trucks is seriously affecting the cleaning drive while the dilapidated roads were causing untold sufferings to the people in the town.

Since 1988, there had been no polling to elect chairman and 24 ward commissioners of the pourasava due to court injunctions following cases against a new delimitation of the municipality.

On expiry of the elected municipal body's tenure in 1988, the authorities announced the schedule for elections of the municipalities throughout the country early that year. However, the election of Narayanganj Pourasava had to be postponed in 1989 following a writ with the High Court challenging a fresh demarcation (restructuring) 12 union committees into eight wards.

The suspension of the elections continued due to injunction by the court until it dismissed the writ following prayers by all the four petitioners including two former ward commissioners — Jahangir Alam and Rafiqul Islam in early 1993.



Front view of 111-year-old Narayanganj Pourasava.

Unfortunately, the long overdue elections of Narayanganj Pourasava had been withheld for another three years since the removal of legal barriers.

riers.

However, on August 5, 1996, the Election Commission had announced schedule for Narayanganj Pourasava election on September 29 and accordingly 11 candidates filed nomination papers for the post of chairman and 121 filed nominations for 24 posts of ward commissioner in eight wards (three for each ward).

But the election of Narayanganj Pourasava scheduled for September 1 was stayed once again by the High Court on a fresh writ petition by a group of five persons.

The sudden postponement of the polls came at a time when all preparations for the long-felt elections were in progress and the port city was witnessing a full-swing electioneering after long 12 years.

A Division Bench of the High Court issued the rule on September 1, 1996 upon a writ petition filed by Raisul Haque and four others challenging the legality of the Narayanganj Pourasava election then scheduled for September 29.

According to a certificate issued by advocate Sudhansu Shekhar Halder, the counsellor of the petitioners, the court was pleased to issue orders upon the authorities to show cause as to why the notification for the election should not be declared to have been passed and issued without any lawful authority and no legal effect. The court also ordered for stay of operation of the notification of election for eight weeks but still now the decision of the court is pending with the court for decision.

Informed sources said the petitioners, who challenged the legality of September 29 election, were residents of the east bank of Sitalakha under Bandar thana. The four unions of the Bandar thana were separated from Narayanganj Pourasava following establishment of the new of Kadam Rasul Pourasava.

The petitioners Raisul Haque, Ahsanullah, Mobarak Hossain, Habibullah and Shahabuddin, all from Bandar thana, wanted merger of their four unions with Narayanganj Pourasava.

Fund shortage hits Jessore TB clinic

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Aug 22: The local TB clinic is beset with manifold problems due to acute fund shortage.

Alleged negligence, indifference and half hearted attitude of the officials of Health Department have also attributed to the crisis.

There is no X-ray machine. No replacement of the first X-ray machine which went out of order five years ago is yet to be made.

Patients coming to this clinic are usually referred to local private clinics for X-ray of their chest at their own expense. Afterwards they have to show it to TB clinic doctors to detect the disease.

Previously, such cases were X-rayed from the TB clinic free of cost.

Moreover, the only jeep of this TB clinic has been lying in Jessore General Hospital compound. It has gone out of order 10 years ago.

It is yet to be repaired. Acute fund crisis has been prevailing here. As a result, field visits by doctors and medical staffers from the TB clinic has been stopped.

Earlier, when the jeep was serviceable the doctors of the TB clinic used to visit patients in rural areas to check up their health regularly. The medical staffers from the TB clinic also visited every house of patients in village areas to supervise them continuously.

Situated in the low-lying area of the town, the TB clinic goes under knee deep water during the rainy season.

Not only for doctors and staffers but for the patients also

it becomes difficult to reach the TB clinic.

An initiative was made by the local authority to raise its level by doing earth filling.

But it was dropped following non-availability of fund.

Surrounded by slum-dwellers, the TB clinic environment is also unhygienic.

The construction work of the boundary wall of the clinic started a decade back.

But it remains incomplete till now.

According to office record, during the period from January to June this year, a total of 1967 patients came here for treatment.

173 cases were detected as TB patients.

Established in 1962 and housed in a tin-shed building the TB clinic has become old and dilapidated for lack of proper maintenance.

Its outer view looks like a den of musclemen.

Loadshedding disrupts life in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Aug 22: Normal life has been paralysed in the district town and adjacent areas due to frequent power failure and load-shedding, reports UNB.

Business transactions, official works and studies in the school and colleges are being hampered as the supply of electricity remain suspended for six to eight hours daily. The students are the worst sufferers.

Pabna Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 22: One person was killed when a speeding scooter hit a bicycle from behind on Pabna-Ishurdi Road near Alhaj Textile Mills recently.

The victim, Joitosh Kumar, was coming by a bicycle. He was going to Ishurdi bazar from Jainagar.

Seriously injured Joitosh was immediately rushed to Ishurdi Thana Health Complex where he succumbed to his injuries.

3 absconders arrested

PABNA THANA police recently arrested three absconding terrorists wanted in connection with several cases against them following two raids conducted separately.

The arrested accused are Saiful Islam, son of Abdul Jalil of Kalachandpara in Pabna town, Wahab and Abdul Khaleque, sons of Kafiluddin of village Mahendrapur under Dogachhi union of Pabna sadar thana.

Police camp set up

In view of growing activities of secret extremist organisations in Fojiljama union of Chatmohar thana in Pabna district, a police camp has been set up at Pabakhali. One officer and five police constables have been posted there.

Valuables worth Tk 9,000 looted

A theft was committed at night recently in Gaudi Junior High School under Dapunia union in Pabna sadar thana.

The thieves allegedly entered into the school building at night by breaking open the door of the office room and took away the bell, wall clock, teachers' and students' attendance registers, several furniture, tuition fee collection receipt book and a cash amount of Tk 3,000. In total they looted Taka 9,000 in cash and kind.

A case has been lodged with Pabna thana.

BCL worker shot at

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) worker, Titu, was recently admitted into Pabna General Hospital after receiving gunshot injuries.

It has been alleged that a group of youngsters attacked the BCL worker at his residence in Ramchandrapur within Pabna Pourashabha. At one stage, he received gunshot injuries and at once he was shifted to Pabna General Hospital.

Titu was a Chhatra Dal worker previously and he joined Chhatra League recently.

105-year old man commits suicide

An old man, aged about 105 years, allegedly committed suicide recently by taking poison.

The old man named Azhar Ali Biswas of Fateh Moham-madpur under Ishurdi Pourashabha was suffering from unbearable pain in his abdomen. Being unable to bear the pain, he alleged took insecticides. Immediately he was shifted to Ishurdi Thana Health Complex, but before he died on the way.

Two drown

Asif Rana, 15, son of a prominent industrialist and a Freedom Fighter Ismat Ali of

Gopalpur died recently of drowning in the Padma.

Rana, a student of Pabna Vocational Training Institute, went to see the Padma river along with some of his friends. At one stage they decided to take bath in the river. While bathing, Rana suddenly went away by strong current of the river and went out of the reach of his companions.

After a continuous search for long 28 hours, the body was recovered from near Satbaria, about 15 miles downstream from the place of occurrence.

In yet another incident, a two-year old son of one Lokman Hossain, named Anif of Ekdanta-Dottar under Agharia thana drowned on August 8.

The boy suddenly fell down in a small tank near his house. None could witness the scene. After several hours his body was found floating in the marshy tank. It was recovered later on.

Cultural function

The Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) of Pabna recently presented a cultural show at the *Mulla Mancha* of Pabna Town Hall.

The open-air cultural show attracted a large number of crowd.

The programmes included dance, songs, *geetnatya* and a one-act drama. The function was conducted by Nasima Khanam, a popular singer and teacher of IFA.

4 dacoits arrested

Ishurdi thana police team near Dasuria arrested four alleged dacoits from Sharakandi while preparing for committing dacoity on August 5 night.

Police sources said that at about 1 am at night the dacoits stopped on gunpoint one truck loaded with cows. The truck was coming from Rajshahi and was bound for Dhaka. After stepping the truck, they attempted to snatch away money from the inmates of the truck.

Meanwhile, the contingent of patrol police arrived there and caught the dacoits red-handed.

The arrested dacoits, against whom a case has been registered with Ishurdi thana, have already been sent to court and sent to Pabna Jail hazat.

Husband kills wife

A sensational murder case has been registered with Faridpur thana of Pabna recently.

The wife, Halima, 21, daughter of Ansar Ali of village Chandpur, married to one Jinnah of the same village recently. She was under pressure of her husband for dowry amounting to Taka 10,000.

Halima Khatun was staying in her father's residence and on August 9 night Jinnah went to his father-in-law's house. Both the husband and wife slept in the same room but in the morning, none of the couple was found there.

After search the body of Halima Khatun, with her hands and feet tied was found in a nearby jute-field.

Dhirendra Nath Mahapatra, Officer-in-Charge, Faridpur thana, on getting the information, rushed to the spot and recovered the body of deceased.

Husband Jinnah is absconding. A case has been lodged and the body was sent to Pabna morgue for post-mortem.

2 killed in Mymensingh road accident

MYMENSINGH, Aug 22: Two people were killed and 30 others injured in a road mishap at Zikartala in sadar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Salam, 25, and Samed Ali, 30. Nine of the injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Police said two people died on the spot and 30 others were injured when a minibus hit a Gaforgana-bound bus in Zikartala area.

The bodies were sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy and a case was filed with the local police.

Both the buses were seized by police, but the drivers fled the scene.

Local people put up barricade on the Mymensingh-Dhaka road for about an hour protesting the accident.

Teenaged boy murdered in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 22: A teenaged boy was allegedly killed by some unidentified miscreants at Deluar Char in Belkuchi thana, police said, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police recovered the body of Russell, 18, son of one Sanwar Hossain of Tamai village in Belkuchi, from the char at about 11 am.

Police suspect that Russell, a worker of a local dyeing factory, was strangled. Autopsy of the body was done at Sirajganj General Hospital.

4 get life term for killing a farmer

SHERPUR, Aug 22: Four people have been sentenced to life term in jail for killing a farmer at a village in Sadar thana in 1994, reports UNB.

The convicts were identified as Aftab Uddin alias Akhter Ali, Hedayetullah alias Heda, Abdus Sobhan and Mandal, inhabitants of Chakshahabdi Ghugrakandi village in Sadar thana.

The case history in brief: farmer Sawdagar Ali was mercilessly beaten up by his rivals on the morning of April 3, 1994 following a dispute over irrigation of water to their crop lands. Ali succumbed to his injuries at Jamalpur General Hospital at night on the day.

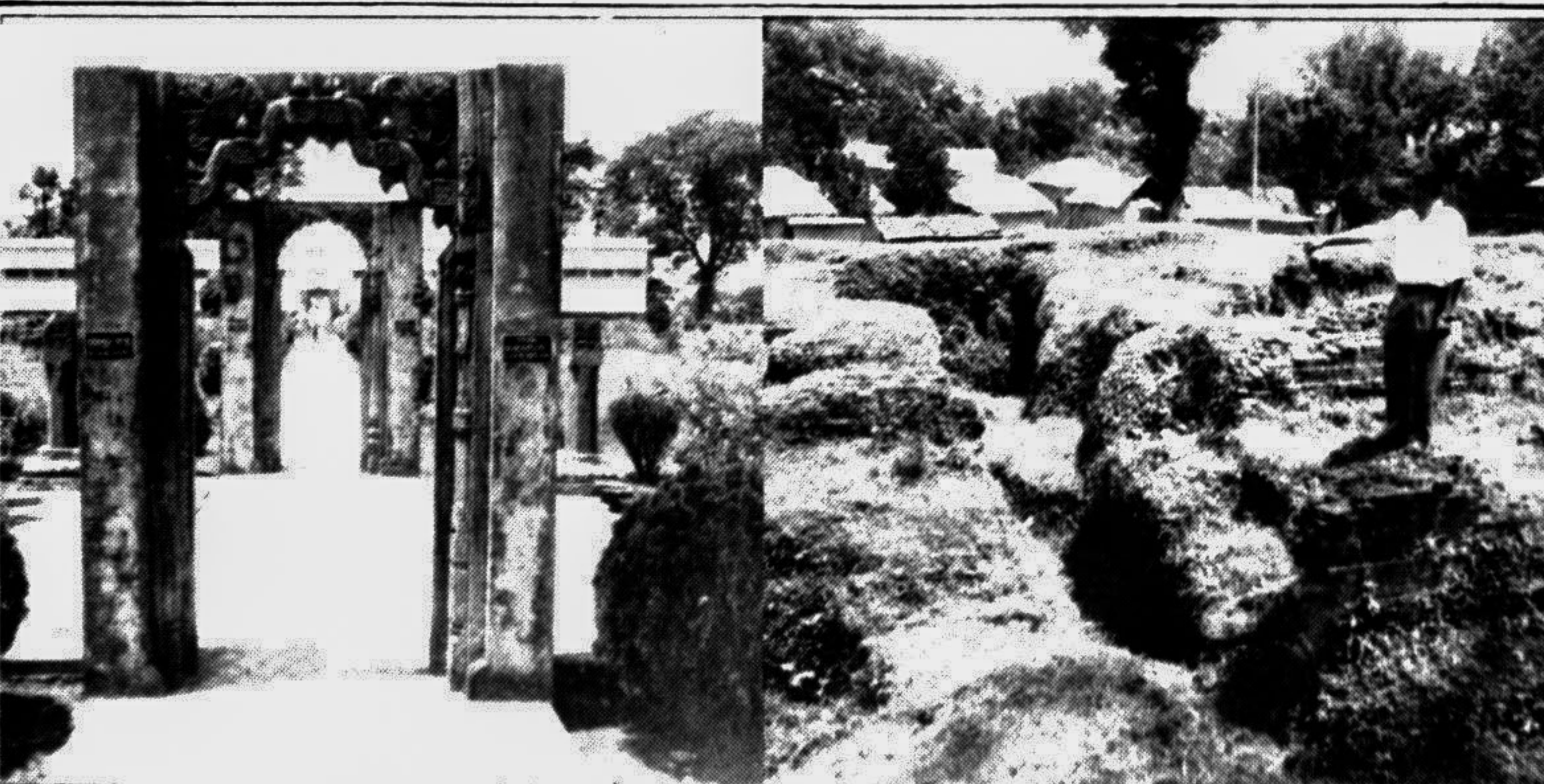
Upon completion of investigation into the death of Ali, police chargesheeted 16 people.

After examining the witnesses and evidences, Additional District and Sessions Judge Sham Narayan Pal on Sunday punished the four and acquitted 12 others.

Foundation of Destitute Children's Complex laid

BHOLA, Aug 22: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a Taka 1.26 crore destitute children's complex here to accommodate 100 orphan girls with food, shelter, education and employment for them, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the destitute children's complex was being constructed as part of the government's programme to alleviate poverty and improve the lot of the poor and distressed people.



BOGRA: Front view of Mahastangar Museum (left) and reexcavation work progressing (right) under Bangladesh-France joint project.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman