

## News snaps

### Prize giving ceremony

MANIKGANJ, Jan 4: The prize giving ceremony of the teachers of 'mosque based child and mass education programme' of the Islamic Foundation was held in the auditorium of Manikganj Islamia Kamil Madrasa on December 29, reports BSS.

The function was presided over by Maulana Mohammad Musa, Principal of the madrasa. Prof Asaduzzaman, Principal of Government Mohila College, Manikganj and advocate Golam Mohiuddin, secretary, Manikganj district Awami League spoke on the occasion as chief guest and special guest respectively. The function was also addressed, among others, by Md Shiraj Mannan, additional director, Islamic Foundation Manikganj, Md Rafiq-ul-Islam assistant director and Maulana Hafiz Abu Taher. Nine teachers of three thanas and one librarian were given prizes for their best performance.

### Man killed in Sylhet road accident

SYLHET, Jan 4: A middle-aged man was run over by a speeding truck at Alampur on Sylhet-Jakiganj road in Sadar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police sources said Fazul Mia, 35, son of Shishu Sheikh of village Uttar Baushi in Sarishabari thana of Jamalpur district, met his tragic end while crossing the road. Postmortem of the body was performed at Osmani Medical College Hospital and a case was filed with the Kotwali thana. Another report adds: Six students of a picnic party were injured seriously by some miscreants at Majortila area in the town on Monday. Police said a gang of miscreants boarding in a microbus suddenly attacked the bus carrying the students of Tajpur College in Balaganj thana who were returning from Jafong after picnic. The hoodlums beat up the students, snatched their money and two cameras and damaged their vehicle. A case has been filed with the Kotwali thana.

### One killed in Satkhira road mishap

SATKHIRA, Jan 4: One person was killed in a road accident near Kulia bridge under Debhata thana of the district on Saturday last, reports BSS.

According to police sources, a Satkhira-bound mini-bus from Kaliganj ran over a man near Kulia bridge while he was crossing the road. He succumbed to his injuries at K'aulna 150-bed hospital the next day. The victim was identified as Moksed Ali, 60, of village Alipur under sadar thana. A case was lodged with Debhata thana. The driver managed to escape with his minibus.

### Housewife burnt to death

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 4: A housewife was burnt to death in a fire that charred 10 dwelling houses at village Pachila in Ullaphara thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Aleya Parveen, 28, wife of Nurul Islam. According to witnesses, fire caught Aleya when she fell down suddenly on a container full of petrol while entering into her house with a lantern in hand. The blaze soon engulfed the adjacent areas destroying 10 houses. The extent of damage was estimated at about Tk 2 lakh. Aleya was rushed to the Sirajganj General Hospital where she succumbed the following day.

### Confce of imams

JAMALPUR, Jan 4: A conference of the selected imams of different mosques in Jamalpur district was held on December 29 at Singharini High School auditorium, reports BSS.

The conference was arranged by Islamic Foundation, Jamalpur. Nearly one hundred imams participated. Rezaul Karim Hira, MP attended the meeting as chief guest while Achyuta Padasawami, Deputy Commissioner was special guest. Moulana Abul Hussain, *pesh imam* of Jamalpur Bar, mosque presided over the conference. Deputy Director, Islamic Foundation, Jamalpur, in his welcome speech outlined the objectives of the meeting. According to official sources, a panel of best imams would be selected from among the enlisted imams after reviewing their whole year performance. This panel of imams would represent Jamalpur district in the next national level meet at Dhaka.

### Birth centenary of poet Golam Mostafa

JHENIDAH, Jan 4: A two-day function was held at village Monoharpur under Satkhira thana on December 28 and 29 to mark the birth centenary of renowned poet and litterateur Golam Mostafa, reports BSS.

The inaugural function was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Aminur Rasul. Rehana Akhtar Hira MP inaugurated the function as chief guest. Son of the poet and noted painter Mostafa Monwar, daughters of the poet Feroja Khatoun and Rashida Huq spoke on the occasion as special guests.

The inaugural function was followed by a discussion on the literary works of the poet with artist Mostafa Monwar in the chair. Prof Shahidul Hassan, Daud al Hafiz and Rawnak Mohammad Rafiq took part in the discussion.

### 2 lakh children deprived of medicare

SHARIATPUR, Jan 4: About 2 lakh children are being deprived of proper medicare facilities in absence of a Shishu Hospital in the district, reports UNB.

At least 12 lakh people of which 3.16 lakh are under 15 are living in six thanas of the district. Local leaders said about 40,000 children under one year of the district can get proper treatment if there is at least a child ward in each thana health complex. They alleged that time and again they demanded of the government to establish a child hospital in the district town but no efforts have yet been taken in this regard.

### AGM of Tangail Press Club

TENGAIL, Jan 4: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Tangail Press Club was held at its premises on December 26 with Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

Acting Secretary KS Shah and Treasurer Kazi Zahurul Maola, placed their reports at the meeting. Among others Dr Md Kamruzzaman, advocate Khar, Mohammad Khaled, Advocate Rafiqul Islam and Md Salahuddin, spoke on the occasion. The AGM was followed by annual election of the executive committee of the press club. Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury and Zafar Ahmed were elected president and general secretary of the press club respectively.

### Mushroom growth of hotels in Noakhali

MOAKHALI, Jan 4: The mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in the district town and thana headquarters has been threatening the public health, reports UNB.

Foods are being prepared and stored in most unhygienic way in these hotels and restaurants. Besides, stale foods are being sold to the customers in the absence of inspection by the authorities concerned. Many people have been suffering from intestinal diseases due to intake of adulterated and stale foods in the district. The garbage is also being dumped beside the hotels and restaurants polluting the environment. A large number of tea stalls have also been set up beside the main roads hampering the vehicular movement. Several hundred such shops have sprung up in the municipal areas of Majdee and Chaumuhani.

### Teenaged boy killed in road mishap

JHENIDAH, Jan 4: A teenaged boy named Anif was killed in a road mishap at Bishoykhali bazar in Sadar thana on Jhenidah-Jessore road on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a sugarcane laden trolley ran over the victim, a worker of a tailoring shop, while he was crossing the road. The driver, however, fled the scene. The body of the victim was sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with the police.

### Sanitary latrines construction scheme

RANGPUR, Jan 4: The Facilities Department has been executing a scheme for the construction of sanitary latrines in 83 schools in Nilphamari district at a cost of Taka 40.21. 595 in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said, the construction work of the scheme is expected to be completed within next two months.

### Indian goods seized

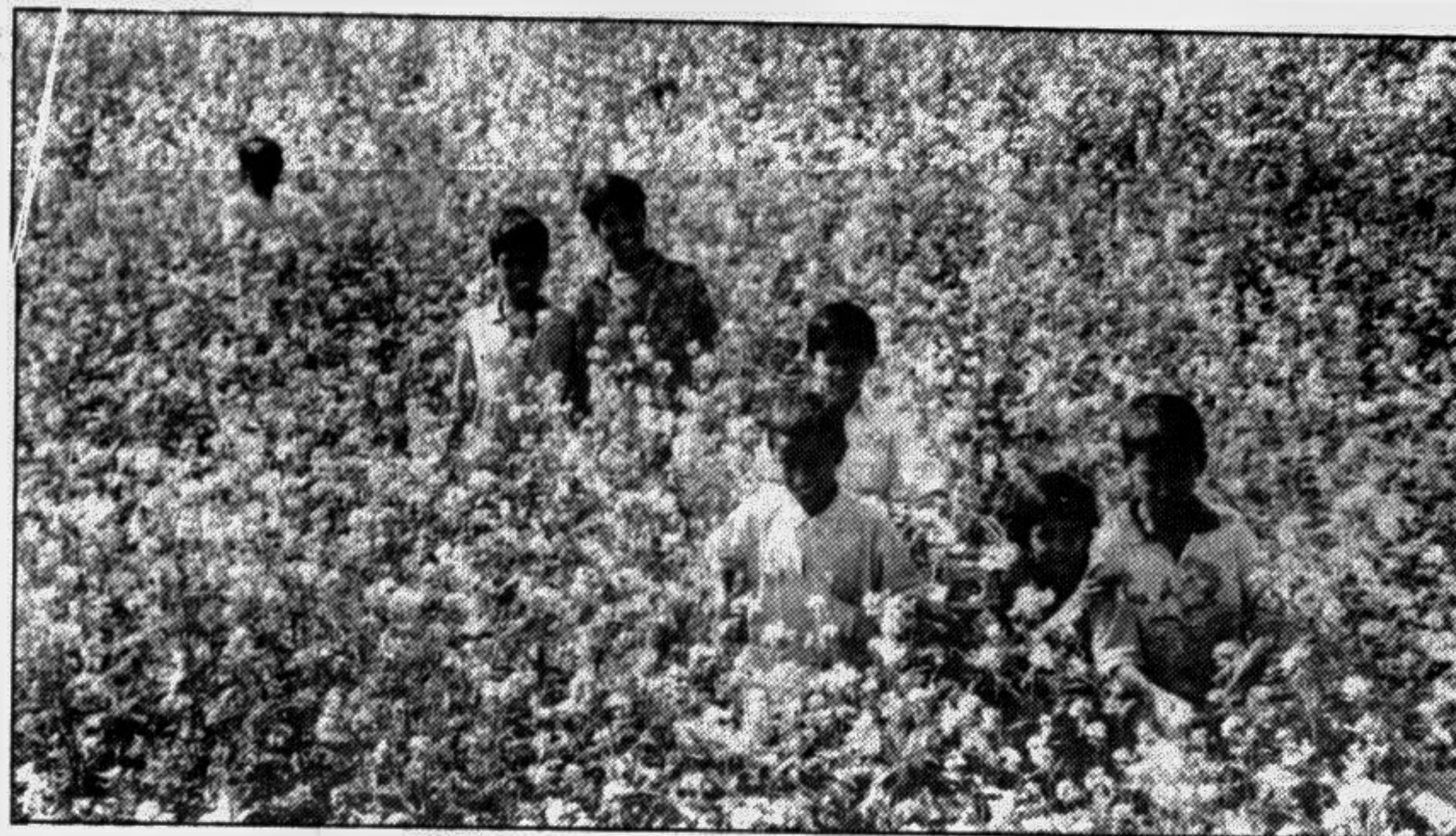
SATKHIRA, Jan 4: The members of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized Indian smuggled goods worth over Taka 2.39 lakh between December 13 and 15 from some border areas of the district, reports BSS.

A BDR source said the contraband goods include sugar, salt, onion, milkpowder, bi-cycle, cumseed, sarce, bidi, nylon net and stainless steel goods. The goods were deposited to the Satkhira customs authorities. None was arrested in this connection.

### AGM of MCC

MADARIPUR, Jan 4: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Madaripur Cricket Club (MCC) was held here recently at the public library auditorium, reports BSS.

Khalilur Rahman Khan, president of MCC and chairman of Madaripur *porasava* presided over the meeting. The annual report was placed by MCC general secretary Ameer Babu. A friendly cricket match between the senior eleven and the junior eleven was held at the local stadium on the occasion.



MUNSHIGANJ: A massive mustard cultivation programme has been taken up in the district this winter. Photo shows an enchanting view of a land with full bloom mustard flowers where rural boys enjoying the attractive scenery. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

## Huge quantity of illegal fire arms recovered

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 4: Kotwali police recovered huge quantity of illegal fire arms, bombs and bomb-manufacturing materials from two deterrent places of Obhannagar thana in the district in two separate operations conducted recently.

They also recovered a stolen motor cycle and arrested four persons allegedly involved in it from the same place during this operation.

Acting on tip-off, a contingent of police, led by SI Fazlur Rahman, raided the house of Rajak of Lakhipur and recovered

a double barrel gun, two rounds of cartridges, five live bombs, huge quantity of arms and materials to manufacture bombs.

After this police, raided another house owned by Rafikul Islam of the same village and recovered one *ramdao*, Chinese axe. Police arrested Rafikul and Bilal from there.

In another said SI Shahidul Islam Shahin of Kotwali thana recovered a Chinese motor cycle from Shorkhula under the same thana and arrested Johurul and Aro Ali.



Innerwheel Club of Dhaka North West recently organised an eye camp at Ekhaspur and Banglabazar under Begumganj thana where 86 patients were operated upon successfully, 1200 eye patients were given treatment and spectacles were distributed free of charge. Ten eye specialists under the leadership of Dr Mohibul Islam along with 15 nurses and the members of the club attended the patients.

## 50,000 children suffering from malnutrition

BARGUNA, Jan 4: About 50,000 children in all five thanas of the district have been suffering from malnutrition and other related diseases, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by a non-government organisation, the number of premature deaths, blindness and retardation are gradually increasing among the children day by day in the district due to abject poverty caused by successive floods and drought.

The children of different thanas are also suffering from several killer diseases like dysentery, pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, hooping cough, night blindness and skin diseases, the report revealed.

Scientifically a child after five months requires balanced food enriched with calcium, iron, vitamin, folic acid etc in addition to breast feeding.

## Health complexes facing manifold problems

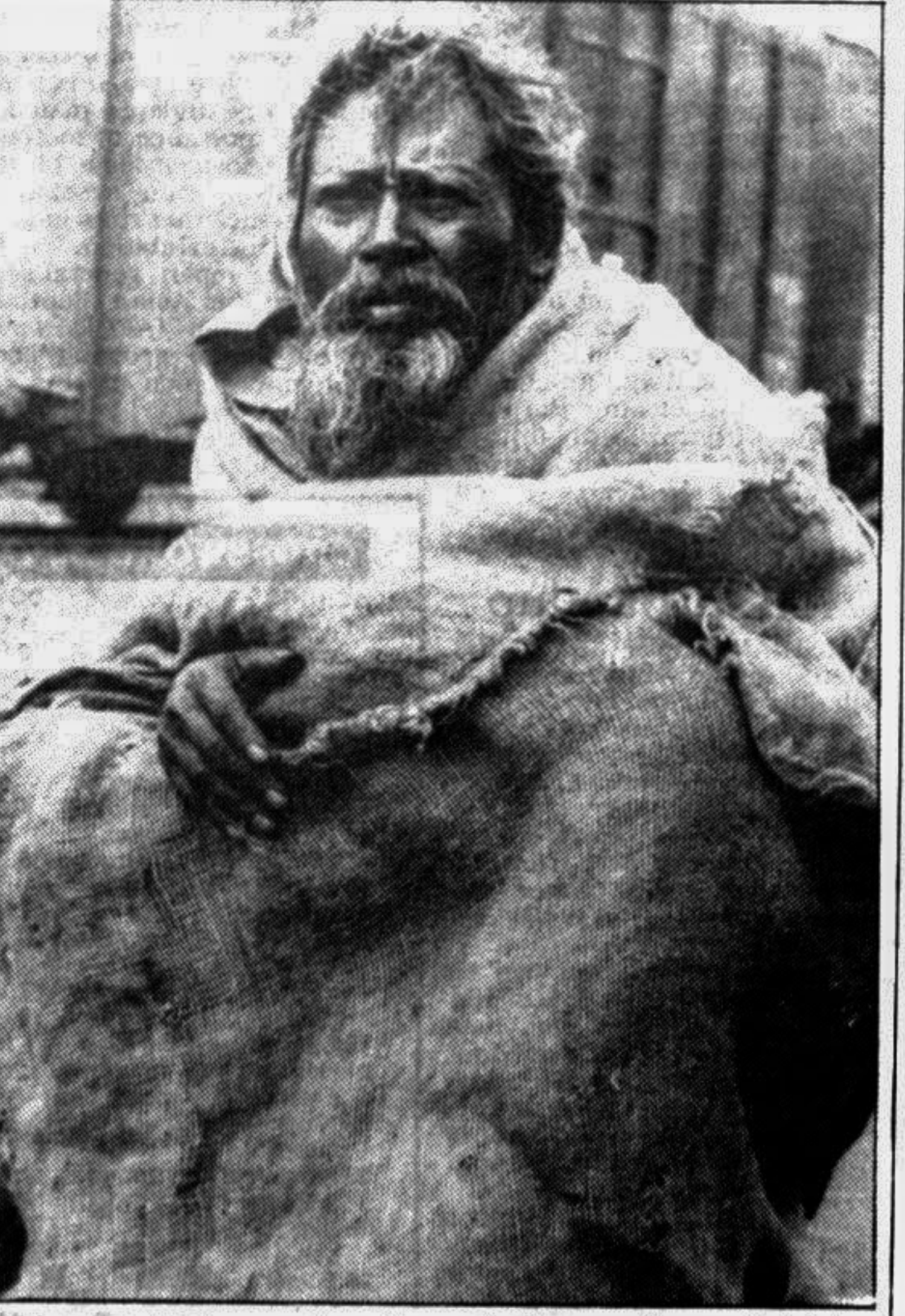
MADARIPUR, Jan 4: The health complexes in the district are facing manifold problems for long hampering the medicare services, reports UNB.

Shortage of physicians, staff members, medicine and other necessary appliances jeopardised almost all the health complexes causing untold suffering to the patients.

The health complexes are plagued with paucity of drinking water, inadequate drainage system, absence of ambulance, blood banks, dental and ophthalmic instruments.

Most of the health complexes have no X-ray machines causing much suffering to the patients.

Local leaders have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to solve the problems of the health complexes for the interest of the rural people.



Cold wave that sweeping through five northern districts under Rangpur zone for past one month paralysed normal life and caused immense sufferings to poor, low income group. Due to abnormal high prices of warm clothes and its scarcity cold hit victims hardly could afford those. Photo shows an old distressed person trying to protect from cold by wrapping himself with gunny sacks. — Star photo

# Post-poll violence: 10 hurt in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 4: Ten persons were injured, three of them seriously in a post election violence on December 31.

According to police source, the violence erupted when the supporters of Azmal Hossain Sabu, one of the defeated chairman candidates of Alibad Union Parishad (UP) under sadar thana suddenly attacked some supporters of the winning chairman of the same UP Md Selim. The clash escalated in the villages causing injuries to 10 persons including a housewife identified as Sahera Begum, 32.

Shahin, 40, Faruque, 18, and Murad, 20, who received serious injuries were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital. In view of the critical condition one Shahin was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Two separate cases were filed with Kotwali thana in this connection. Police have, so far arrested one person.

Tension is prevailing in the area.

UNB reports from Sirajganj: At least 50 people were injured and 15 vehicles were damaged in separate post-election clashes at Bhadrakul union in Belkuchi thana and Bhadrakul union in Kamarkhanda thana on Saturday.

Some 15 seriously injured were rushed to Sirajganj general hospital and Kamarkhanda thana health complex.

Police and local people said the clashes occurred as a sequel to clashes between police and villagers in Belkuchi thana on

December 30 and the clashes on December 31 in Kamarkhanda thana centering the casting of false votes and rigging of elections in some particular centres.

To avert further clashes, riot police have been deployed in the areas.

Our Magura correspondents adds: Union Parishad election of 28 UPs out of 36 UPs in the district have been completed.

Votings were held in seven UPs like Satrujitpur, Kuchimora, Gopalgram, Raghabdair, Bagla, Beralpalita and Hajrapur under Sadar thana on December 24 and 27 peacefully. Elections of eight union parishads like Chaulia, Maghi, Kachundi, Atharakhanda, Hazipur, Muhammadpur and Soikol in the district were not held due to cases in the court for various reasons.

According to the unofficial result from the district election office, the last UP polls in 3 UPs of Magura Sadar thana were held on December 27. The elected chairmen of seven UPs under sadar thanas are: Md Atiar Rahman Nannu Mia in Beral Palita UP, Md Johir Mollah in Satrujitpur UP, Afjal Hossain Bashir Mia in Gopalgram UP, Md Jahangir Hossain in Kuchimora, Abu Taleb Nantu in Raghabdair UP, Nijamuddin Ahmed in Bogla and Mihir Kanti in Hajrapur UP.

The complete unofficial result of seven union parishads in Sirpur thana of the district are as follows: In Gayeshpur Union Parishad Md Majid Molla was elected chairman by securing

2619 votes. His nearest rival candidate was A Halim who got 2550 votes. A Karim, Ratan Mollah, Tobarek Ali, Sohrab Hossain, Afsar Ali, Nekbar Hossain, Mosharaf Hossain, Taser Ali and Masrar Rahman were elected ward members and Jashoda Rani, Momota Rani and Halima Khatun were elected female members in the reserved wards.

Badrul Alam Biswas was elected chairman securing 6871 votes in Amalsar Union. His nearest rival candidate was Suhr Rahman who got 3814 votes. Nine ward members of the said UP are Jalaluddin, Adil Uddin, Chand Ali, Nabuyat Molla, Bidhan Mondol, Azizur Rahman, Iman Uddin Ajendra Nath Ghosh and Ayub Ali.

Jharna Begum, Halim Begum and Nebha Rani Ghosh were elected female members in the reserved seats.

In Sirpur Union Parishad, Khandakar Nasirul Islam was elected chairman. Md Chand Ali was elected chairman in Nakol UP. Ashrafuddin chairman in Kadipara, Md Samirul Islam chairman in Sabdalpur and Shariful Islam elected chairman in Dariapur UP.

According to sources, many new faces were elected chairman and members in the current UP polls.

The female community became happy to elect their representative in the reserve seats of the Union Parishads.

In Amalsar Union Parishad under Sirpur thana both husband and wife were elected ward member and female member respectively.

# Attack on school teacher: Punishment to culprit sought

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Jan 4: A protest procession was brought out in Gopalganj town from Gopalganj central Kalibari premises on December 25 by local people of Gobata under Gopalganj poura area.

They demanding punishment to Zahid Hossain for torturing a old school teacher Amal Krishna Biswas. They also demanded cancellation of lease of cattle grazing ground.

Zahid, son of late Abdul Wahab Khan of Gopalganj town took lease 150 decimal of cattle grazing ground out of 3.48 dec-

imal in 2635 dagh of Khatra Mouja in Gopalganj poura area in the year of 1994.

He wants to make the ground a residential area. The local people brought out procession in the town several times against the lease. They submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner for cancellation of the lease.

As a result Zahid and his partymen tortured Amal Krishna Biswas an old school teacher physically on December 21 evening last year.

A case has been registered

with Gopalganj PS in this connection. Police arrested Zahid and sent to Gopalganj court. The court granted bail to Zahid on December 23.

The local people arranged a big protest procession jointly in Gopalganj town on December 25 from Gobata area for further arrest to Zahid.

It is to be mentioned that the Hindu community and elite of Gopalganj town blamed Zahid Hossain for bringing out a procession condemning the Officer in Charge (OC) of Gopalganj sadar thana, Aminur Rahman.

## Faridpur Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 4: Acute food scarcity has been prevailing across the district causing great inconvenience to the farmers.

It is learnt from several farmers of different thanas that they could not preserve enough straws

for feeding the cattle during the last season after harvesting IRRI-Boro crops due to continuous rainfall. In some thanas crops were damaged.

It is also learnt that the cattle are getting weaker day by day owing to shortage of fodder.

## UP polls held peacefully

The Union Parishad (UP) election of four unions under Char Bhadratan thana of the district was held peacefully on December 20.

The names of the newly elected chairmen of each union with political affiliation are as follows: Md Hukum Ali Chokder, Char Ghawkanda Union 6 Awami League (AL), Abul Kalam Bepari, Char

Bhadratan union 6 BNP, Md Azizul Huq 6 Gazirtek union 6 AL, Abdul Majid Khan, Char Hariampur union 6 BNP.

It may be mentioned here, Char Bhadratan thana comprising only four unions is the smallest one of the district.

## 1742 certificate cases filed

A total of 1742 certificate case were filed by four banks against the loanees in the district to realise the outstanding

money lent out. An amount of taka 5,74,28,000 was lent out by Krishi, Sonali, Agrani and Janata Banks.

According to bank's sources, Krishi Bank will get Tk 4,88,68,000 Sonali Bank Tk 42,33,000 Agrani Bank Tk 25,43,000 and Janata Bank Tk 17,84,000.

## Rokeya Day observed

Begum Rokeya Day, was observed here in a befitting manner on December 9.

Different socio-cultural organisations including district women affairs department, Nari Forum,

Faridpur Shikhyo-o-Songskriti Charcha Kendra and Jatiya Mahila Songstha, Faridpur district unit took separate programmes to observe the day.

The programme began with a colourful rally by Women Affairs Department from the circuit house maidan. The rally paraded the main streets of the town and ended at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall where a discussion meeting on the life and activities of Begum

Rokeya was held with school inspector (Retd) Begum Rokeya Ahmed in the chair.

ADG (General) Md Abul Hossain was present as chief guest at the function. While Head Mistress

(Retd) Begum Lila Chowdhury and Head Mistress of Ishan Girls' High School Begum Rushema

Imam were present as special guests on the occasion.

## JCD founding day observed in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Jan 4: Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), district unit, observed its 19th founding anniversary here, through an elaborate programme on Thursday, reports UNB.

A discussion meeting with JCD district unit convenor AKM Golam Kabir Kamal in the chair and an after party were held on the occasion at Surovi market premises in the town.

Central leader of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal M Tofazzal Hossain was present as the chief guest while Jasimuddin Bhuiyan, MA Jallil and Nurul Islam attended as special guests.

Speakers in the discussion blamed the government for planning to divide the country by signing the CHT peace accord violating the constitution and depriving the Bangali settlers of their legitimate rights.

## 3,000 brickfields using trees as firewood

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 4: More than 3,000 brickfields in 16 Northern districts including Sirajganj are using trees as firewood instead of coal for burning bricks, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by a non-government organisation, so far about 10 lakh different trees in the region have already been felled and are being used in brickfields before the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

In Pabna and Sirajganj districts there are more than 1,500 brickfields. Most of the owners deprive the government of huge revenue with the connivance of some dishonest officials.

Many owners have no genuine licences and the brickfields have sprung up violating the government rules, the report said.

## BAU Officers' Parishad executives

MYMENSINGH, Jan 4: A new executive committee of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) Officers' Parishad has been formed for the year 1998, reports UNB.

Deputy Director and Assistant Director of Planning and Development department M Tofazzal Hossain and Md Nurul Islam have been elected as president and secretary.

Other office bearers include Vice-presidents — Riazul Hannan M Yusuf and M Abdul Wahab, Joint Secretaries — M Abdul Matin and Sheikh Azimul Huq, Treasurer — AKM Shamsuddin, and Members — M Rafiqul Huq, M Lutfar Rahman, Abdul Latif Mia and Sheikh Fakhrul Islam.

## Farmers' rally

JHALAKATI, Jan 4: Agriculture Extension Department held a farmers' rally at village Timirkathi in Nalchhiti thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The rally was organised for increasing awareness among the farmers about the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a new technology in preventing pest attack on crops.

Nalchhiti Thana Nirbahi Officer AFM Imam Hossain presided over the rally while ADC Kazi M Abdul Gani and Deputy Director of the department M Anwarul Alam attended the programme as chief and special guests.

About 400 farmers from different areas of the district took part in the rally. Twenty-five farmers were given certificates while a block supervisor and three farmers received prizes for their contribution to agriculture sector.

## Obituary

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 4: Badruddin Ahmed, ex-government officer, died at his residence 'Santala Gardens' in Ghope, Jessore town at the age of 88 on December 31, 1997 after prolonged illness.

He is survived by his wife, eight sons, four daughters, host of friends, well-wishers and relatives to mourn the death.

A renowned personality of local town, late Badruddin Ahmed was a Jessore Jail visitor. He was associated with a number of social and cultural organisations.

He retired from government service in 1964. He was highly spoken of for his skill, efficiency and knowledge in office work.

He was buried at 'Santala Gardens'.