

**News snaps**

**School teacher stabbed**  
From Our Correspondent

**RAJSHAHI, Feb 15:** A senior teacher of Rajshahi Shiroil Government High School, Mohammad Nurunnobi, 50, was seriously stabbed on Thursday morning by his young neighbour, Wadud, 20, on a family dispute over possessing a hen.

The injured was admitted into Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. He was operated upon and his condition was critical till writing of this report, according to hospital source.

A case was filed in this connection.

**Dacoits kill one**  
From Our Correspondent

**RANGPUR, Feb 15:** One Monoranjan Dhar, 37, was killed and two of his brothers severely injured by an armed gang of dacoits at Dilarpur village under Rathanagar union in Badarganj thana of the district recently.

Police said that the dacoits numbering about 15 equipped with arms and swords raided the house of the victims at midnight and broke open the doors of the house.

House inmate Monoranjan when resisted the dacoits became furious and attacked him with a sword causing his instantaneous death. Two brothers of the deceased Sunil and Makhan at that time appeared in aid of his brother and when attempted to resist the dacoits, both of them were injured by the miscreants. The villagers hearing hue and cries came to the spot. The dacoits escaped by opening gun fire on the air.

The injured persons underwent treatment at the Taragonj health complex.

**Young man stabbed to death**  
From Staff Correspondent

**SYLHET, Feb 15:** One young man was stabbed to death at a place near his village house at Kamarganj of Balaganj thana recently when he was returning home from Gosalabazar.

Lechu Miah, 28, a push cart driver came under the attack of a gang of miscreants at about 9:30 PM and was killed on the spot. The cause could not be ascertained as yet. Miah's elder brother filed a case with Balaganj police. But no arrest has yet been made.

**KU students boycotting classes**  
From Staff Correspondent

**KHULNA, Feb 15:** Students of all the departments of Khulna University have been boycotting their examinations since February 7 in protest against what they termed as failure of the authorities concerned to take proper action against a group of non-students who raided Khanjahan Ali Hall on February 1.

The students have decided not to attend classes and also sit for examination until and unless the culprits are expelled from KU and security of hall residents are fully ensured by the Vice Chancellor. Meanwhile, the VC has formed a five-member committee to inquire into the incident.

**Crop land devoured by Jamuna**

**SIRAJGANJ, Feb 15:** Some 40 acres of crop land and over 100 dwelling houses went into the gorge of mighty Jamuna in last two weeks, reports UNB.

Officials said erosion by the river continued to hit the north side of Syolbari embankment in sadar thana, forcing the local people to leave their homesteads. Meanwhile, Water Development Board has brought the worsening situation of the area to the notice of the higher authorities, but they have failed to take any preventive steps in this regard. Local people called for taking immediate measures in order to save their lives and property from the onslaught of the mighty river.

**IRRI-Boro farming scheme in Netrakona**

**NETRAKONA, Feb 15:** Netrakona district Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a massive IRRI-Boro crops cultivation programme in 10 thanas of Netrakona district this year, reports BSS.

An official source said, under the programme a total of 71,450 hectares would be brought under the IRRI-Boro crops cultivation. Of the total lands, 63,000 hectares would be brought 8450 hectares under local variety. The production target of the crops has been fixed at 1,93,485 tonnes. The plantation of the IRRI-Boro paddy seedlings has already been started in the district.

**Founding anniversary of Sandhani**

**MYMENSINGH, Feb 15:** In observance of 21st founding anniversary of Sandhani, a voluntary organisation of medical and dental students, a press briefing was organised by the local unit of Sandhani at the premises of Mymensingh Press Club on Thursday last, reports BSS.

The local unit of Sandhani presented a written statement mentioning their success and also the problems they are facing now. According to the statement, Sandhani Mymensingh Medical College unit collected 32476 bags of blood and 33 corneas since 1979. The problems included shortage of funds and blood bags, want of transport, and shortage of instruments, re-agents and technicians. The unit sought all sorts of cooperation including financial support from government and solvent persons.

**Road construction work progressing**

**KISHOREGANJ, Feb 15:** Development work of different roads and construction of bridges and culverts in the district are nearing completion, reports BSS.

Roads and Highways Department is implementing the projects under taken in 1996-97 fiscal year involving Taka 6.75 crore. According to official sources, the roads include Kishoreganj-Katiadi-Bhairab, Kishoreganj-Pakundia-Mothkhala, Kishoreganj-Nikli, Nandail-Taril, Nandail-Atharabari-Rosulpur, Kanorampur-Baliapara, Bajitpur link road, Kuliachar link road, Chamachar Ghand-Mithamon soiling, Kaltapara-Gouripur, Bhairab-Mendipur and Gastala Chidbar road. About 90 per cent work of the projects has already been completed and the rest is in full-swing.

**Winter clothes distributed**

**BANDARBAN, Feb 15:** The district administration has distributed 3,400 pieces of winter clothes and a cash of Taka 1.20 lakh among 10,000 cold-hit families in the seven thanas of Bandarban district last week, reports BSS.

Official sources said, seven relief teams headed by Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of the respective thanas were formed for distribution of winter clothes and the cash doles. The thanas are Lama, Ruma, Alikadam, Naikhangchari, Ruangchari, Thanchi and Sadar. The chairman of the hill district council Twang Cha Prue Master, Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban Atiqul Islam Chowdhury and other district level officials were present at the distribution function of relief goods among the cold-hit persons in the pourashava.

**BKB realises outstanding loan**

**CHUADANGA, Feb 15:** Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has realised outstanding loan amounting to Taka 2,82,50,000 in the first six months of the current financial year through 10 branches of BKB under four thanas of Chuadanga district, reports BSS.

The bank has fixed a target to realise arrear loan of Taka 10 crore during the current financial year. The loan recovery work is in full swing in the district.

**Health workers asked to serve poor men**

**NARSINGDI, Feb 15:** Health and Family Welfare Secretary Mohammed Ali on Friday visited the Narsingdi Sadar Hospital, reports BSS.

He also visited the newly constructed family welfare centres at Karimpur and Alok Bali union and the proposed place of family welfare centre at Char Digoli union under Narsingdi sadar thana. The secretary went round different wards of the hospital and family welfare centre. He said the present government is pledge-bound to establish disease-free 'Sonar Bangla'. He called upon the health workers to reach the medicare facilities to the doorsteps of the deprived section of society for making the government's pledge for Health for All programme by the year 2000 a success.

**Anniversary of death of Abdus Salam**

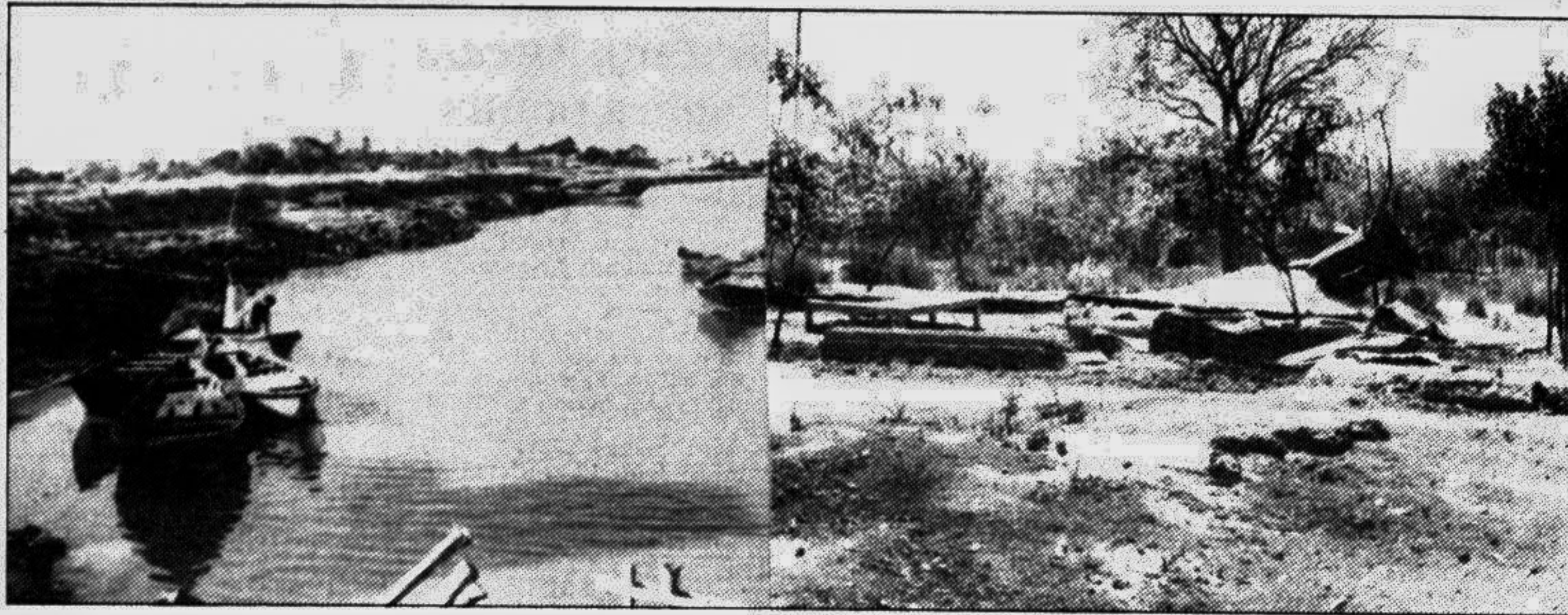
**FENI, Feb 15:** The 21st death anniversary of eminent journalist and former Editor of Bangladesh Observer Abdus Salam was observed at his village home on Friday, reports UNB.

On the occasion, Abdus Salam Smriti Parishad organised a day-long programme, including a *milad mahfil* and destitute feeding. A discussion meeting was held which was addressed, among others, by convener of the parishad Adv Nurul Islam Bachchu and Rehana Salam.

**Anniversary of birth of Anukul Chandra**

**MUNSHIGANJ, Feb 15:** A two-day function marking the 110th birth anniversary of Thakur Anukul Chandra was held here at Kali Manir on Sunday and Monday last amidst religious fervour and due solemnity, reports BSS.

The highlights of the programme included devotional songs, recitation from the scriptures and discussion on Thakur Anukul's humanitarian and spiritual teachings.



PABNA: Erosion of the river Jamuna has recently taken a serious turn in Bera thana in the district. A total of 10 villages have been devoured.

**949 crimes recorded in Natore last year**

From Our Correspondent

**NATORE, Feb 15:** The year 1997, witnessed a record number of crimes in Natore leading to deterioration of law and order situation.

According to a statistical report, at least 949 crimes were committed in six thanas of the district last year, the highest number of crimes committed in last 10 years.

The security of life and property has become uncertain as crimes increased manifold, local observers said.

The Sadar thana of the district was identified as a 'crime zone' in 1997. About 37 per cent of the total crimes in the district were recorded in this thana. However, only eight per cent of the total crimes were committed in Bagatipara thana.

Thanawise break up of crimes is as follows: 76 crimes in Bagatipara thana, 97 in Gurdaspur thana, 126 in Bo-

raigram thana, 159 in Lalpur thana, 161 in Shingra thana and 348 crimes in the sadar thana of the district.

Another statistical report says, the number of crimes in the district increased in the years of 1987 and 1993. But in 1994, the number was reduced and again it started to increase.

The number of recorded crimes was 449 in the year of 1987 while the number was 485 in 1988, 589 in 1989, 570 in 1990, 618 in 1991, 728 in 1992, 874 in 1993, 715 in 1994, 785 in 1995, over 800 in 1996 and 949 in 1997.

Maximum number of crimes was recorded in 1997 when, the observers say, the political environment was calm and quiet comparing to the previous years.

In this situation the peace-loving people of Natore have been passing their days in fear and panic.

On the other hand, illegal sale of liquor in different areas of the sadar thana is going on unabated. Many stationery and drug stores owners are reportedly selling liquor freely without any valid licence, it was informed.

Lalpur thana, Bagatipara thana and station bazar, Naldanga and Chalkbadyanathpur areas of sadar thana have become a paradise for smugglers.

Locals told this correspondent, several thousands of old and new bi-cycles were snatched and were brought at Mominpur hat for selling. Police always remained silent about this very cycle-hat.

A few days ago, BDR members from Rajshahi raided the hat and seized a huge number of Indian cycles.

Local people appealed to the authorities concerned to ensure peaceful atmosphere throughout the district.

**Diarrhoea claims 12 lives at Nijhumdip**

**NOAKHALI, Feb 15:** Diarrhoea that broke out at Nijhumdip of Hatya thana of the district since the beginning of the current month, so far, claimed 12 lives and affected over a hundred others, reports UNB.

Emergency medical team and necessary medicines have been sent from the district headquarters to the affected area.

But the disease is spreading in the area day by day as the physicians and saline packets are quite inadequate to cope with the need.

The affected people urged the government to send more medical teams with sufficient medicines to combat the growing menace.

**Travellers being harassed in Benapole**

**BENAPOLE, Feb 15:** The travellers with legal passports are being harassed by a section of brokers, terrorists and extortionists in Benapole check post, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the terrorists demand tolls from the travellers whenever they reach here from different places of the country and on refusal they are to undergo various humiliations by them.

The passport brokers entering into the immigration, customs, bank and medical offices freely put pressures on the travellers to take their help and finally compel them to succumb to their evil designs.

The brokers realise Tk 400 from each traveller in the name of safe passage to the other side of the border without checking from authority concerned.

Officials said, the brokers and extortionists are engaged in such illegal activities in connivance with the local influential quarters. And hence, the authorities cannot dare to take action against them.

They also alleged the brokers are also involved in smuggling and other anti-social activities in the area.

Police arrested some of the brokers in last year but no such drive has yet been taken this year due to mysterious reason.

**50th anniversary of founding of Ansars**

**JHALAKATI, Feb 15:** The 50th founding anniversary of Ansars in the district was observed on Thursday with much enthusiasm, reports UNB.

Some 400 members of Ansar and VDP participated in different programmes including rally, discussion, *milad mahfil*, games and cultural programmes, organised on the occasion.

Of the participants, 76 were given prizes for their outstanding performance in Rural Socio-economic Development Programme.

District Adjutant of Ansar-VDP AKM Ali Ahad Khan presided over the programme while Deputy Commissioner M Jahiruddin was the chief guest.

Among others, Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer Goutam Kumar Ghosh, Circle Adjutant of Ansar-VDP Abdur Rashid Shikdar, Divisional Director of Ansar-VDP Bank Shahadat Hossain, Thana Family Planning Officer Noor Hossain Mollah, Thana Fisheries Officer Abdur Malek and Thana Food Controller Khan Anwar Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

**27 hurt as BCL factions clash at Siraganj**

**SIRAJGANJ, Feb 15:** A series of clashes between two factions of pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) in the town left 27 people injured, five seriously, reports UNB.

Of them, Saiful Islam, convener of BCL Govt Islamia College unit and four other unidentified people were admitted to Ibrahima Clinic.

Police said the clash took place when Saiful, also a contractor of LGRD, refused to pay toll to his rival group, led by Sharif-Rana.

Police said Sharif-Rana group attacked Saiful at his residence at Shahed Nagar Bepari Para at around 1.30 pm, leaving Saiful and six others injured.

After the incident, Saiful's supporters made a counter attack on the rival group at about 4 pm that left 20 people injured. Two cases were filed.

**3 killed in separate incidents in Faridpur**

From Our Correspondent

**FARIDPUR, Feb 15:** Three persons were killed and 25 others injured, six of them seriously in separate incidents in Nagar Kanda thana in the district in a week.

Besides, 24 dwelling houses were looted and one was set on fire at different village including Khardia under the thana.

One Baka Munshi, 42, who was injured seriously on February 3 at Rang Rayer Kandi died at Faridpur General hospital on February 4 raising the death toll to 2.

This correspondent visited Rang Rayer Kandi, Khardia and

other villages and talked to the villagers to know the cause of the murder and lootings. The villagers kept mum and most of them tried to avoid the fact. So far as I guessed, previous enmity was the cause of Chhuru Matubbar murder. Still tense situation is prevailing in the area, though police force were deployed at Khardia to avert further untoward incident.

However, after the post mortem examination, Chhuru Matubbar was buried at his family graveyard. His brother Tara Mia lodged a case with Nagarkanda thana accusing 27

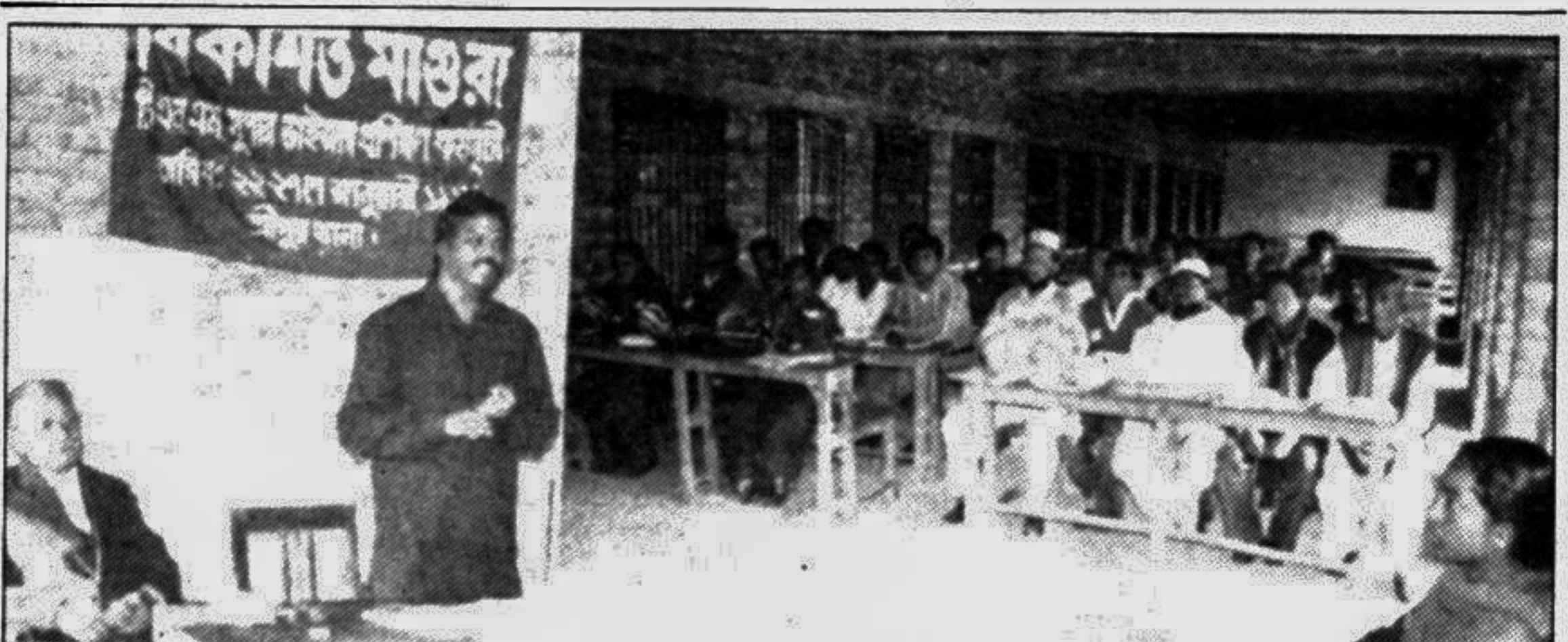
persons.

When asked Nagarkanda Police told this correspondent, the murder incident took place suddenly. The Officer in Charge (OC) was not available then.

Besides, one Bablu Talukder, 25, was brutally killed by the rival group over water irrigation to IRR block at Manikdee in the thana.

Police so far arrested six persons on charge of their alleged involvement with murders, lootings and arson.

Villagers regretted that no leader visited the area till writing of this report.



MAGURA: The Total Literacy Movement (TLM) Supervisor Training Course under Bikoshito Magura, an integrated socio-economic development programme concluded recently at Sirpur Pilot High School under Sirpur thana in the district.

**'Every village will be developed maintaining proper environment'**

**KHULNA, Feb 15:** Minister for health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf said here on Friday every village in the country would be developed maintaining proper environment, reports BSS.

The health minister was speaking as chief guest at a public meeting held in connection with the inauguration of Kashbah-Poigrame Environment Village in Phultala police station of Khulna district on Friday.

Presided over by the Executive Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Khulna Nurullah, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Kazi Sekander Ali Dalim MP, Begum Mannujan Sulfan MP, Additional Chief Engineer of LGED Engineer Rubait Nurul Hassan, Phultala Thana Awami League President Anwaruzaman Molla and local Union Parishad Chairman Shaikh Rabiul Islam Mantu.

Kashbah-Poigrame Environment Village having all the facilities including supply of sweet water, sanitary latrine, bio-gas plants, fish-culture in the derelict ponds, livestock, cottage industries, communications and schools and *madrashas*.

The health minister also inaugurated public telephone booth at the Poigrame-Kashbah High School and later inaugurated Bejerdanga Bhatpara-Narail-Jugpasha-Poigrame-Kashbah road link.

The minister also visited Kazi Abu Mokaram Fazlul Bari Orphanage Complex of the village. He also planted a sapling at the complex premises. The minister inaugurated a bio-gas plant at the house of Abul Hasem of the village.

Later the health minister inaugurated a week-long spring

festival at the local zila school ground arranged under auspices of BSCIC of Khulna. Presided over by the chairman of BSCIC AHM Rezaul Karim the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdur Khaleque, Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abul Kashem, regional director of BSCIC Khulna M Alimuzzaman and president of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industries SM Nazrul Islam.

The health minister also inaugurated the 21st National Science Fair (Khulna southern region) being held at Khulna Zila School auditorium. Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Khulna Iftekhar Ahmed the inaugural function was addressed by State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdur Khaleque, and VC, Khulna University SM Nazrul Islam.

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**Ghior-Jabra road work completed**

**MANIKGANJ, Feb 15:** Local Government Engineering Department has completed the development work of 8-kilometre long Ghior-Jabra road at a cost of Taka 89 lakh 53 thousand. The programme was assisted by Saur Fund for Development, reports BSS.

**66 modern UP complexes to be built this year**

**MYMENSINGH, Feb 15:** The government is planning to construct some 4669 full-fledged Union Parishad Complexes this year by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

The estimated cost of each Complex is Tk 30 lakh.

In next five years, the UP Complexes will be set up in each union, LGED and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said here on Friday.

Speaking at a meeting of the newly elected UP Chairmen of

Ishwarganj in Mymensingh, Zillur referred to the free and fair voting in UP election and said the government has ensured the people's rights to vote.

"Now, our task is to ensure people's right to food and achieve economic freedom," the Minister said.

He urged the people to rally round the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to free the country from the curse of poverty and illiteracy.

About 500 leaders and workers led by newly elected Chairman Abdul Hadi Mia of Mogoltuli Union, Chairman Thoas Ali of Matjibagh Union and Chairman Abdul Halim of Tarundia Union joined the Awami League.

**Gaibandha Newsletter**

From Our Correspondent

**Properties worth Tk 1 lakh gutted**

**GAIBANDHA, Feb 15:** Eight dwelling houses together with all the belongings were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire incident that took place at village Shabaj under Sunderganj thana recently.

On February 4 at noon the fire originated from the kitchen of one Badia Bepari of the aforementioned village and soon the flame spread to the adjacent houses. Properties including rice, paddy and jute worth about Taka one lakh have been reduced to ashes. Local people, however, brought the fire under control.

**Protest procession**

**Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Gaibandha** unit brought out a procession protesting sharp price hike of essential items including rice and fertiliser.

The procession paraded main roads of the town. Earlier, a protest meeting was held at the office premises of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Gaibandha, where the speakers demanded immediate control of price hike. They also demanded reduction of OMS rice price at Tk 10 per kg against the present rate of Tk 12.50.

**Man drowns**

**One Ibrahim, 38, of village Analer chara under Gaibandha sadar thana** drowned into the river Brahmaputra while taking bath. At noon of February 2 he went to the river and drowned instantly. According to his family source he was a patient of hysteria.

**Science fair**

**Three-day long science fair** began here at Gaibandha Government College premises which was formally inaugurated by Sharafuddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha.

On this occasion a discussion meeting was held at the college campus on February 8 which was presided over by Prof Monjur Ali Khan, principal of the college. The meeting was addressed by Waliur Rahman, Police Super, Prof Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, Rafiqul Islam Sarker, Prof Khandker Ahsan Habib, Abu Zafar Sabu.

A total of 104 tiny science organisations participated with their various inventions.

**2 cows poisoned to death**

**Two cows of one Abdul Aziz** were poisoned to death on February 8. At late night Abdul Aziz entered into his cow-shed and found one pregnant cow and one bullock dead.

Witnessing the scene the victim fell unconscious. The other inmates of the house later recovered a phial of Malathione pesticide from the cow shed. It is apprehended that some one killed the cattle with poison as a sequel to past feud.

**Left Democratic Front's protest**

**Protesting price hike of essential items including rice, agriculture inputs and increasing terrorism, toll collection and repression on women** Left Democratic Front, Gaibandha arranged a press conference on February 9 at Gaibandha Dramatic Sangstha auditorium. Wasur Rahman Rafel, Coor-

dinator, Left Democratic Front, Gaibandha unit in a written statement expressed concern at the price hike of essential items including rice and fertiliser.

According to the present market rate, a single kg of rice is being sold between Tk 13 to Tk 16. They said they had demanded to take steps to control the market rate, but the government took last hour measure by introducing Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice which did not affect the market as the government fixed up OMS price at Tk 12.50 per kg of rice.

On the other hand government withdrew subsidy on fertiliser and increased the rate by Tk 50 per bag of fertiliser although government had commitment to allow subsidy on agriculture inputs and demanded reduction of fertiliser price.

**Suicide**

**One Shahidul Islam, 24, of village Dakkhin Falia** under Gaibandha sadar thana committed suicide by taking pesticide on February 9. At noon the victim was rushed to hospital in a critical condition and died after a while. The reason of his suicide is yet to be ascertained. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the thana.

**Accused arrested**

**Police arrested one Aminul Islam of village Chalitbari** under Palashbari thana on charge of killing one person during the polls at Chalitbari centre during last UP election. The accused person remain absconding since the incident took place. On getting secret information police raided the house of accused and arrested him.

**Sonali Bank Employees' Union meeting**

**A meeting of Sonali Bank Employees' Union B-202** was held at the premises of Sonali Bank main branch on February 9. Presided over by Abdur Rouf Chowdhury the meeting was addressed by District Awami League President Md Khaled, Secretary Syed Shamsul Alam Hiru, CBA central leaders Aminul Haq, Jamaluddin Ahmed and Sudhansu Kumar Roy. The speakers discussed different aspects of banking sector.

**Interest free loan distributed**

**Social Welfare Department, Gaibandha sadar thana, disbursed Taka two lakh as interest free loan** under social welfare programme among 100 destitutes of four villages. The loan was disbursed in a simple ceremony by Sultanuddin Ahmed, Deputy Director, Rangpur.

**Cow traders robbed**

**A group of miscreants snatched away cash Taka 39,070** from two cow traders Nurunnabi and Moslemuddin at Amlagachi under Palashbari thana.

The aforementioned cow traders were going to Matherhat cattle market at day long. While they reached at Amlagachi a gang of seven persons resisted them and snatched away cash taka at sharp weapons point.

A case was filed with Palashbari thana accusing six persons.



HABIGONJ: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria presenting a sewing machine to a VDP member at the opening ceremony of the 26th branch of Ansar-VDP Unnayan Bank at Nabigonj thana headquarter in the district of Habigonj on February 6. Brig Sadique Hasan Rumi, Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Ansar & VDP, SS Nizamuddin Ahmed, Managing Director of the bank and Md Habibur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet division were also present on the occasion.