

Rowdyism at Shaheed Minar

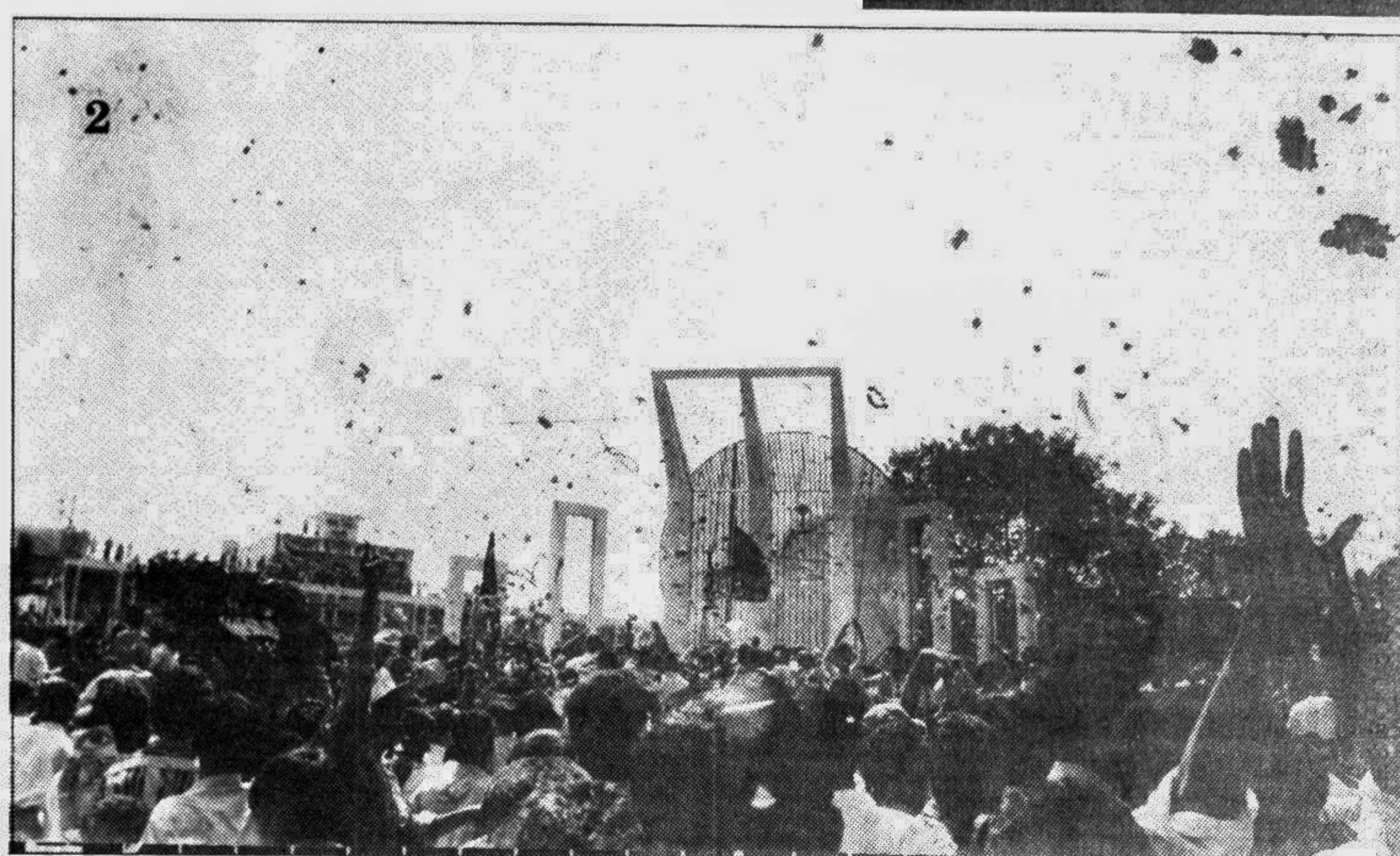


Photo Captions

(1) Heated exchange of words between the programme organisers and pro-BNP activists.

(2) Throwing wreaths into the air.

(3) BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia placing wreaths at Shaheed Minar in a chaotic situation.

(4) A bonus for a 'Tokai', taking away a wreath.

(5) Volunteers decorating the altar of the Shaheed Minar with flowers before the incident.

(6) Policemen at the minar after the incident.

— Star Photos

National

News snaps

6 injured in stampede

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 22: At least six people were injured in a stampede when miscreants terrorised them exploding crackers in and around the district Judge Court and DC office on Thursday, reports UNB.

The terrorist incident took place after the release of a student leader of Shahjapur Govt College on bail.

The miscreants left the scene after the students, who came to receive their leader Polash, GS of the college students union, chased them with the help of local people. Office work in the area was disrupted for about two hours due to the trouble.

Local people said Polash, arrested in five cases, had been detained under the Special Powers Act.

Hospital medicine being smuggled out

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Feb 22: Kotwali police accompanying DB police have recovered huge quantities of government medicines and FP materials worth Taka three lakh from different areas of Rangpur town recently.

Six persons were arrested so far in this connection. According to police, most of the recovered medicines and other items owned by UNICEF were supplied free of cost to government hospitals and clinics. A section of people in collaboration with the hospital staff took out these medicines from the government stores and sold it to some criminals to smuggle into India.

Police on a tip-off launched a surprise drive and recovered the stolen medicines.

School girl raped, killed

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 22: A school girl was allegedly raped and killed by a group of miscreants at Ashuria in Shahjapur thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police sources said the victim was identified as Amina Khutun, 13, a student of class eight of Ashuria High School. The miscreants abducted her at gun point on January 26 from her village home. After 11 days, police recovered Amina's body from the Karotoa river. Her body was tied with a sunken boat. Police sent the body to Shahjapur Thana Health Complex for autopsy. A case was filed in this connection.

Meeting of Patuakhali Agri Credit body

PATUAHALI, Feb 22: A meeting of the district agriculture credit committee was held here recently with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Habibullah in the chair, reports BSS.

Among others, General Certificate officer, Thana Nirbahi Officer, local representatives of different nationalised commercial banks, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation, district fishery department, district agriculture extension department, district livestock deptt, and Swanirvar Bangladesh attended the meeting.

The DC who is also the president of the district agriculture credit committee expressed his dissatisfaction over the lending, recovery and disposal of certificate cases of different banks in the region.

Use of tractors gaining popularity

MEHERPUR, Feb 22: Use of tractors and power tillers is gaining popularity among the farmers of the district, reports BSS.

According to a survey conducted by the sadar thana agriculture department more than 80 per cent of the cultivable lands have been brought under mechanised cultivation in the district by using power tillers and tractors. Some farmers, when contacted, informed that most of them are now tilling their lands by tractors and power tillers. Agriculture Bank has allocated Taka 75 lakh as loan on easy terms and conditions to help the poor and marginal farmers to buy power tillers and other agricultural instruments.

Aman production falls short of target in 16 N-dists

NATORE, Feb 22: The production of transplanted Aman crop during the last season was much lower than the target fixed in the 16 northern districts due to rampant use of substandard fertiliser, untimely drought and rainfall, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) officials here said the estimated production of the high yielding variety of Aman was 2.44 mts per hectare of land while the actual production was 2.10 mts.

For the local variety, the estimated production target was 1.52 mts per hectare but the actual production was 1.15 mts.

According to officials, over 16.13 lakh hectares of land were brought under transplanted Aman farming in the 16 northern districts with a production target of 29.54 lakh

metric tons. But actual production was 27.75 lakh mts and the loss of production was estimated at about Tk 200 crore.

Experts said rampant and disproportionate use of SSP fertiliser mostly smuggled in from India instead of granular TSP or DAP was the main cause of the decrease in the production of paddy.

They said the drought-like situation during the peak season and unwanted rain at the time of harvesting aggravated the situation.

Rainfall was essential during the blooming period of the crop when the cluster of paddy contain milk. But there was no rainfall during that time.

The officials said the farmers in the district were not aware of using high nutrient chemical fertiliser Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and

stressed the need for orientation programme in this regard.

While talking to this correspondent, additional director of AED, Rajshahi division MA Sattar said mass awareness and knowledge of hi-nutritious chemical fertiliser like DAP are essential for our farmers to overcome such situation in future Irri-Boro farming.

He also said AED has already started a series of programmes to arouse consciousness among the farmers about the unwanted used substandard SSP fertiliser.

It is observed that about 80 per cent farmers are not familiar with the Block Supervisors (BS) — the field-level agricultural officials in this region. Generally the farmers get latest and scientific information for crop cultivation from the BS of AED.

Ekushey observed in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb 22: Amar Ekushey was observed here by paying homage to the heroes who laid down their lives during the historic language movement of 1952.

The day began with placing of wreaths at Kushtia Government University College Shahid Minar. Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kushtia first of all placed the wreaths followed by Md Idris Ali, Principal of the college along with his colleagues.

Social, cultural leaders and police super Md Malik Khosru followed them. Afterwards Sar pakala Academy, District Bar Association, Bangladesh Medical Association, Kushtia and other organisations placed wreaths.

National flag was hoisted half mast and black flags were hoisted atop all private and government buildings. Different socio cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programme to observe the day.

Islamic University authority also observed the day in a befitting manner.

2 killed in Araihaazar road mishap

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 22: One woman and her six-year-old child were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Araihaazar thana in the district on February 17 afternoon.

Police said the dead bodies were identified as Shamsunnahar, 30, wife of Farid Mia, and her son Kabir inhabitants of Raypura thana in Narsingdi.

A Dhaka-bound speeding truck hit Shamsunnahar and his son from behind while they were waiting for transport at Patchrukhi bus stoppage at about 2 pm.

The mother and her child died on the spot while the killer vehicle managed to flee. The bodies were sent to Narayan-ganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged with Araihaazar thana in this connection.

Faridpur Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

Husband to die for killing wife

FARIDPUR, Feb 22: District and Sessions Judge of Faridpur SMA Samad in a judgement delivered on January 25 sentenced Idris Bhuiya, son of Dahl Uddin Bhuiya of village Char Magduba under Bhanga thana to death for killing his wife and acquitted seven other accused.

The judgement was pronounced in absence of Idris Bhuiya.

The story in brief is that Manwara Begum, daughter of Abdur Rouf Matubbar of village Gazaria under Bhanga thana was married to Idris Bhuiya, son of Dahl Uddin Bhuiya of village Char Magduba in the same thana nearly two and a half years ago. On February 24, 1996, an exchange of hot word took place between the husband Idris and wife Manwara Begum over dowry. At one stage Idris beat her wife mercilessly. As a result, she died on the spot.

A case was lodged with Bonga thana. Police submitted chargesheet against the accused after investigation. Public Prosecutor Advocate Abul Bhasar Sarder stood for the plaintiff while Advocate Dulal Chandra Sarkar stood for the accused.

Shukumar Biswas, brother of the victim, lodged a case with Nagarkanda thana in this connection accusing four persons namely Mizanur Rahman, Abul Hossain Matubbar, Harun Matubbar, and Elius Matubbar.

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hundred notes fell on the ground. A snatcher standing thereby suddenly took the bundles. A mob caught him red-handed hearing a hue and cry. He was identified as Mintu. Only Tk five hundred was recovered from his possession. He was handed over to Kotwali police.

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Murders on rise in Jessore

JESSORE, Feb 22: Cases of murder are on steady rise in all 8 thanas of the district from 1993 to 1997.

A total of 573 persons were murdered in the district during this period.

According to source, 72 persons were murdered in 1993, 94 persons in 1994, 114 persons in 1995, 172 persons in 1996 and 127 persons in 1997.

In the year 1996, highest number of murder cases was recorded.

According to information in last six months of that year, a total of 94 murders out of 172 were recorded.

In July of the same year, 21 persons were murdered while in September, 25 persons were

murdered.

A number of lawyers told The Daily Star, lack of proper investigation and evidence in the case has hampered the trial in the court from where the accused persons have gone unpunished on merit of benefit of doubts.

They also told, there are instances where police have submitted final report of murder cases resulting in short-cut trial. In many cases complainants remain silent.

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JESSORE: Newly-elected union parishad (UP) chairmen and members in Chowgachha thana of the district recently taking oath at local thana parishad auditorium.

— Star photo

The speakers discussed the evils of drug abuse and opined that a concerted effort should be made to save the coming generation from this curse of drug addiction.