

News snaps

Arsenic-free water to be supplied

BARISAL, Jan 2: Three thanas of the district will be supplied with arsenic-free drinking water under a Public Health Engineering Department project, beginning next month, reports APB.

Fourteen ponds will be dug or re-excavated at a cost of Tk 17.5 lakh under its 'Pond Sand Filter' project in Gournadi, Murali, Hizla and Banaripara thanas where at least 10 people have so far died due to arsenic contamination of groundwater. Sources in the local office of PHED said the ponds will be protected from trespass and pollution by barbed wire fencing or boundary walls. Bathing, clothes-washing and fish cultivation will not be allowed. Three-stage sand filtering system will be set up by the banks of the ponds and purified water will be supplied to the consumers without chlorine.

Additional 24,000 VGF cards allocated

JAMALPUR, Jan 2: The government has allocated additional 24,000 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards for the flood-affected destitute families of the district, reports UNB.

With these, said the officials, the total number of VGF cards in the district rose to 98,100. The officials said almost all the additional cards, allocated last month have been distributed among the poor families in order to support them during their hardship in the post-flood period. Earlier, the authorities distributed 1,000 cards each in 68 unions, 3,100 in Jamalpur Pourashava and 3,000 in Sharishabari Pourashava. The authorities admitted that a very small number of irregularities were reported about distribution of the cards and they took measures accordingly.

FP activities hampered

RANGAMATI, Jan 2: The Family Planning (FP) activities in the district are seriously being hampered due to indifference and negligence of duty by the concerned employees and officials, reports UNB.

Local people complained that the field level workers of the department, who used to give frequent visits in the past, are now even not providing necessary appliances to the target couples in the localities. They said particularly in the municipal area, hardly any worker of the Family Planning Department can be seen visiting the fertile couples. The officials, however, said the number of field workers is too inadequate to cover the total area of the district and there is only two field workers for the municipal area here. The total number of field workers in the district is 145. They said in the town, some non-government organisations are working in this field. But the people complained that there is duplication in the programmes run by the government department and NGOs in different parts of the district.

Young man kidnapped, killed

JESSORE, Jan 2: A young man was kidnapped and stabbed to death allegedly by Shorbahara Party men in Abhoynagar thana of the district recently, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Jahangir Hossain, 24, of Subhorara village. Police said a group of activists of the party abductees in the village, Jahangir from his sweetmeat shop in a local bazaar at gun point and stabbed him to death at a nearby place. Police later recovered the body and sent it to the Jessor General Hospital morgue for autopsy. The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately. Another message adds: A young man was killed in a road accident on Jessore-Benapol highway near the town recently. The victim, identified as Abdul Manan, 30, of Dhopakholia village in sadar thana succumbed to his injuries on way to Jessore General Hospital.

Volunteer Day observed

RANGAMATI, Jan 2: A discussion meeting jointly organised by the International Association of Volunteer Efforts (IAVE) and Green Hill, a local non-government organisation, was held recently at Rangamati General Hospital in observance of the International Volunteer Day, reports BSS.

Dipankar Talukder MP, chairman of the task force on repatriated tribals and internal refugee rehabilitation affairs was present on the occasion as the chief guest. Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council Ching Kew Roaza was the special guest. Gamin Guanasingha, national representative of the IAVE, Bangladesh presented the key-note paper. NGO representatives and social activists attended the function.

Rally of freedom fighters

CHUADANGA, Jan 2: The local Freedom Fighters Command observed "Chuadanga Mukto Dibosh" (Chuadanga liberation day) here recently, reports APB.

On this day 27 years ago, the area was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces by the freedom fighters. The Command observed the day through an elaborate programme. The programme included a rally of freedom fighters at Srimiti Town Hall, discussion meetings and staging of drama based on events of the liberation war. President of the district unit of the Command, Shamsul Alam Manik, district Awami League leader and freedom fighter advocate Yunus Ali and a large number of freedom fighters including Mozammel Haque attended the programme.

Chuadanga Bar Assoc executives

CHUADANGA, Jan 2: The annual election of Chuadanga District Bar Association was held recently at the bar association hall here, reports BSS.

Advocate Yunus Ali and Advocate Rafiqur Rahman were elected president and general secretary respectively of the executive committee of the bar association. Other office-bearers are: Vice-presidents — Advocate Moslem Uddin and Advocate Ranjit Kumar Ghose and joint secretaries — Advocate Nurul Islam and Advocate Shahidul Islam. Out of the total 120 members of the bar association 111 caste votes in the election.

Wheat allocated for uplift projects

MAGURA, Jan 2: In a bid to implement 316 development projects in four thanas of the district within the stipulated time, the government has allocated 1261 metric tonnes of wheat for the current dry season, reports UNB.

Work of the projects, undertaken by Relief and Disaster Ministry under Food for Work Programme, included construction and reconstruction of roads and embankments, plantation of saplings and construction of pipe culverts. Of the wheat, 448 metric tonnes were sanctioned for implementation of 127 projects in Sadar thana, 267 mt for 68 projects in Sreepur thana, 298 mt for 64 projects in Muhammadpur thana and 248 mt for 57 projects in Shalikhah thana. Works on the projects are likely to start sometime in the current month and expected to be completed by May, 1999.

Ambulances lying inoperative

JHALAKATI, Jan 2: Two ambulances of the two hospitals of the district have been lying inoperative since long causing sufferings to the emergency patients, reports UNB.

Official sources said the ambulances of Jhalakati Modern Hospital and Nalchhiti Thana Health Complex remained inoperative since September 1997 and March this year respectively following separate road accidents. Sadar hospital failed to get sanction of only Tk 29,000 from the office of the Director General of the Health Department to repair the engine of the ambulance due to alleged corruption in the department. On the other hand, the other ambulance was lying inoperative since nine months as an inquiry team formed to assess the damage of it failed to submit its report till now.

Sugarcane worth Tk 5 lakh gutted

ISHWARDI, Jan 2: About 500 metric tonnes of sugarcane worth about Tk 5 lakh were gutted at Umirpur in Ishwardi Pourasava area last week, reports APB.

Locals said the canes on about 11 hectares of land caught fire from a source still unknown and got ravaged in the afternoon on last Wednesday. Fire fighters from Pabna with the help of locals extinguished the flame as Fire Brigade's local unit lacked sufficient equipment. The fire affected a total of 20 cane growers, who sought help to Pabna Sugar Mill authorities to subsidise their losses.

Nine hurt in clash over land dispute

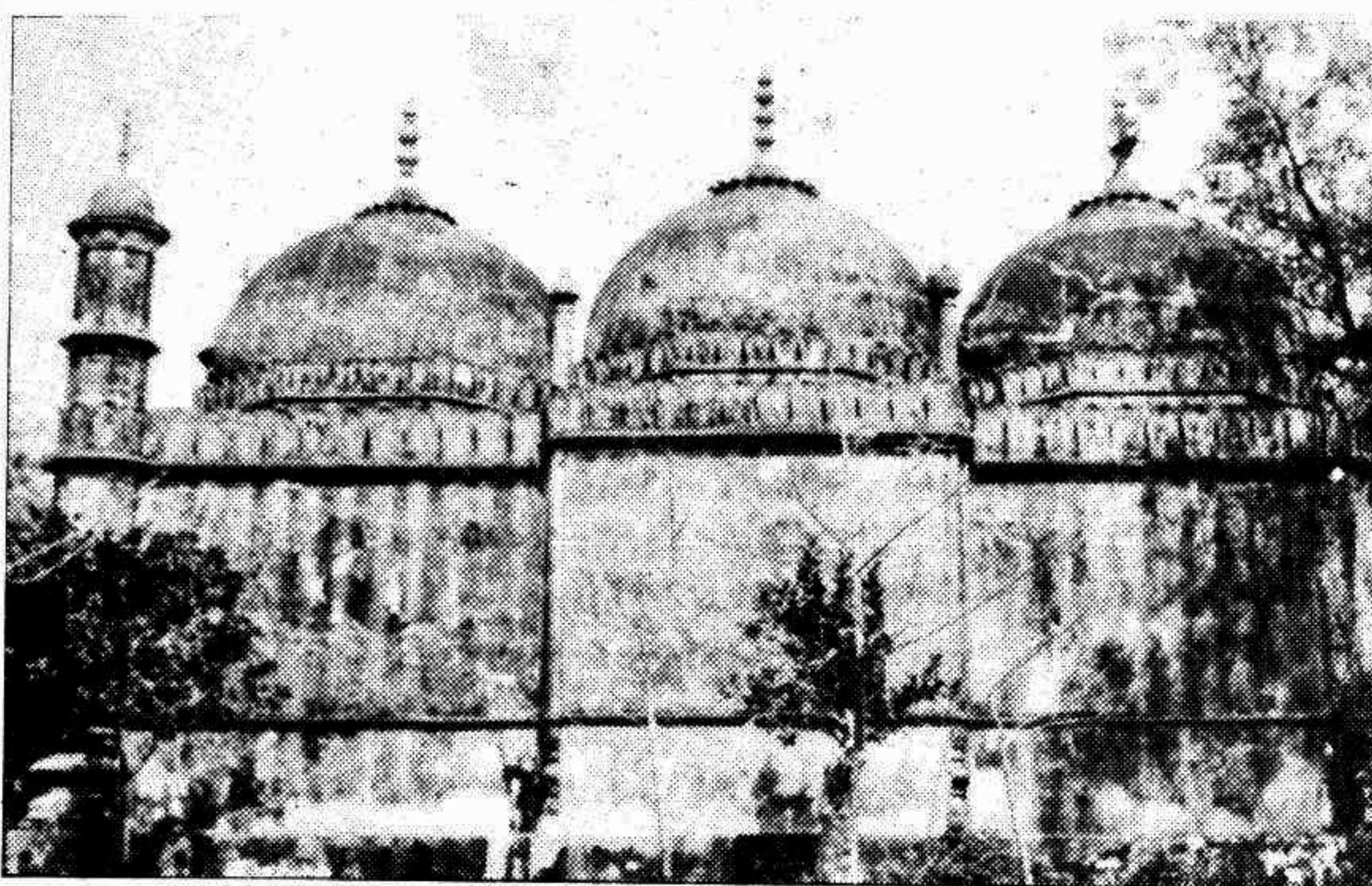
JHENIDAH, Jan 2: At least nine people, one of them seriously, were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a land dispute at Nazirhat village in Shailakupa thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said the clash ensued between the two groups of Shamsul Alam and Majid Ali of the same village when Dabiruddin of Shamsul Alam group went to sow seedlings on the disputed land. Five of the injured were sent to Shailakupa Thana Health Complex. They were identified as Dabiruddin, 25, Kalam Hossain, 21, Rustam, 55, Islam, 32, and Palan, 30. A cage was filed with the police. Meanwhile, police arrested a man from Juka village in Shailakupa thana on Friday. The arrested, identified as Abdul Latif, 30, was said to be the activist of the outlawed Biplabi Communist Party.

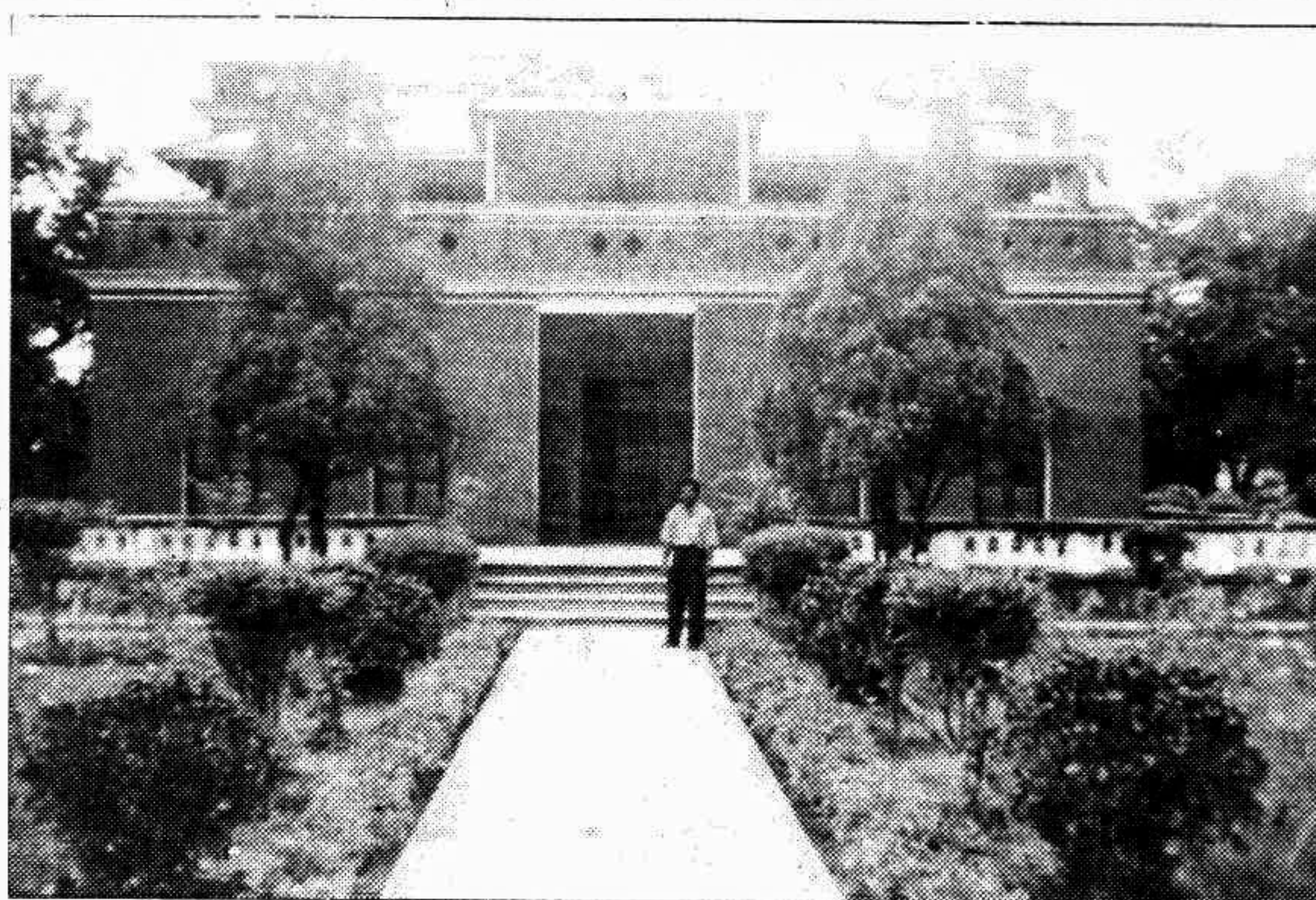
Massive 'Rabi' crops farming scheme

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 2: The Agricultural Extension Department (AED) has taken up a massive cultivation programme in this 'Rabi' season in Cox's Bazar district, reports BSS.

The programme will be implemented in seven thanas. Crops like 'Boro' paddy, pulse, sweet potato, potato, groundnut, maize, winter vegetables, spices, and other crops will be cultivated under the programme. According to the AED sources, high yielding variety of 'Boro' paddy will be cultivated on 36831 hectares and local variety on 187 hectares. Besides, a total of 600 hectares has been brought under potato cultivation in the district.



KUSHTIA: Jhodia mosque, constructed about 200 years ago by a saint who preached Islam in the area.



KUSHTIA: Kuthibari of Rabindra Nath Tagore at Shelaidah.

'Turn historical places of greater Kushtia into tourist spots'

From Fakhrun Nessa

KUSHTIA, Jan 2: There is a bright prospect of attracting tourists from home and abroad if many historical places of greater Kushtia district are turned into tourist spots.

For this purpose a perspective plan is necessary and basic facilities should be provided at different places of great interest such as Shelaidah Kuthibari, Lalon's Mausoleum, Mujib Nagar, Amjhupi Rest House, Jhodia Mosque. Many other places of historical interest are spread all over the district which may be treated as tourists resorts.

Shelaidah Kuthibari, the residence of Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore is a pala-

cial building having unique architectural beauty and ancient heritage of Bengal. The building has been taken over by the Archaeological Department for its proper preservation. But it needs more attention and care. Many visitors visit the place throughout the year. The spot is eight miles off Kushtia town across the river Goral. At present there is a good communication system from here to the rest of the country. The pucca road leading to Kuthibari has been constructed by Kushtia Zilla Parishad at a cost of Taka 30 lakh which was provided by the then Khulna Divisional Development Board. Rabindra Nath Tagore spent most of his busy life here writing a good

number of poems including "Dui Bigha Jami".

Lalon Mausoleum is located at Cheuria, one mile away from Kushtia town. There are graves of Lalon Shah and his followers. A library has been set up here to preserve the works of Lalon who is regarded as the spiritual leader of tens of thousands of 'Bauls'. They flock together here at the annual Lalon Festival which is held here for many years. Steps have been taken for the research work of Lalon Shah's works. Meanwhile, it has been revealed that Lalon was not only a great poet but also a great spiritual leader of his time.

It is well known that great poet Rabindra Nath Tagore had

been inspired by the songs of this great 'Baul'. It has already been reflected in many of his poems later on.

Mujib Nagar is located in Meherpur situated at the extreme border point of India. During our Liberation War, the first Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was formed here and Mujib Nagar was declared as the capital of Bangladesh. After the War of Liberation Mujib Nagar was given a special status and a function is held here every year on April 17. On this day the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was formed here. To make it well-known to the people of the world some positive steps are

required to preserve the national heritage. The place must be turned into a full-fledged tourists resort. Meanwhile, a mausoleum has already been constructed here reflecting 23 years of colonial rule of Pakistani hordes. But many more things are required to be done here. It has been learnt, the present government has taken a gigantic plan in this respect to attract foreign tourists.

Amjhupi Rest House is another ideal place to attract tourists. It is located at Meherpur, four miles away from Meherpur town. Establishment of this rest house dates back to the beginning of British rule in this subcontinent. It is said that Lord Clive

conspired against Nawab Sirajuddoula at this place. He ultimately won the war against the last Nawab of Bengal and established the British rule in India. Amjhupi Rest House can be turned into a tourist resort if proper steps are taken in right direction. Similarly there are many more places in this district which can attract lots of tourists if these are preserved properly.

There is another place at Kushtia which is known as Jhodia Mosque. The mosque was built two hundred years. It was said to be built by a great saint who was reportedly engaged in spreading Islam in this area.

Essentials beyond reach of commoners

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 2: Prices of the most essential items have shown an upward trend with the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

In two days' time, prices of each item have registered an increase of two to three per cent.

The price of onion, however, has come down perceptibly following arrival of the newly harvested variety now. Onion, one of the most essential items of 'iftar' is now being sold at Taka 40 per kg in place of Taka 60 per kg one week ago.

All kinds of vegetables have marked rise in the retail markets of the town. Brinjals and beans are now being sold at Taka 20 per kg against Taka 18 per kg two days ago.

Leafy vegetables like

'lalshak' and 'palangshak' being sold between Taka 12 to 14 per kg, cauliflower is being sold at Taka 16 to 20 per kg while cabbage is being sold at Taka 12 to 15 per kg. Tomato is not yet available in the local markets.

Pulses of all kinds are still maintaining static condition in their prices. Fish like Koi, Magur, Shingi and Pabda are being sold at abnormal high prices, but other kinds of fish are being sold within the purchasing capacity of commoners.

Pure cow's milk is being sold at Taka 22 to 25 per kg as against Taka 18 to 20 per kg two days ago.

UNB reports from Jhenidah: Prices of essentials particularly vegetables have shot up in the

local markets with the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

Local traders said untimely rainfall caused by the last depression in the Bay of Bengal had affected the cultivation of vegetables in the district extensively. Hence the shortfall in production was the main reason behind the price hike.

Meanwhile, the price of rice during the new harvesting season is showing an upward trend. Pajam, a medium variety of rice, is being sold at Tk 1,900 per quintal as against Tk 1,700 earlier while Miniket fine rice at Tk 2,000 against Tk 1,700/1,800 and price of Sharna has shot up by Tk 100 to 150 per quintal.

Prices of fish have also increased by Tk 20 to 30 per kg.

Severe cold wave in N-region

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 2: A severe cold wave accompanied by dense fog in the country's northern region made the people largely confined in their homes during the last two days, reports APB.

The mercury came down here on Thursday below nine degrees Celsius and it may drop further, Met Office sources said.

A thick cloud of mist enveloped the sunrises till 1pm and hampered traffic on roads and highways. Only a few transports were seen plying.

The low-income group was the worst hit as it had to stay at home driven by the bitter cold. Poorer section has been feeling the bite for want of warm clothes.

Young man killed by rivals in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Jan 2: A young man was killed by some people of his rival group at Dhapapara village in Mirpur thana recently, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Robjel, 32, brother of local UP member Afzal Hossain.

Police and villagers said Afzal called an arbitration meeting in connection with an incident of theft allegedly committed by a co-villager Ansar Ali. At one stage Afzal slapped Ansar, which angered the man.

On the next night, Ansar and his accomplices called Afzal out of his home along with his brother Robjel and cousin Bansar and took them to a nearby field. They started beating Afzal and hit his brother on the head when he tried to intervene.

Robjel died on the spot while the other two sustained serious wounds. Police recovered the body

and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital morgue for autopsy. The injured were admitted to the same hospital.

A case was filed with the police.

Another message says: Police recovered two bodies from Sadar and Mirpur thanas of the district recently.

Female rice mill worker killed

MYMENSINGH, Jan 2: A female rice mill worker was killed when her clothes wrapped with its fan at Baghmara Bazaar in Muktagachha thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Rabeya Begum, 45, wife of Newaz Ali of Narkona village in same thana. She died on the spot.



CHANDPUR: Chandpur Rotary Club in cooperation with Rupashi Chandpur Foundation of USA distributing cheques among the flood affected poor people at village Kallanpur. The programme is part of the flood rehabilitation programme. — Star photo

An orgy of killing by outlawed party men

CHUADANGA, Jan 2: While a combing operation by police is on since December 1, several extremist organisations active in 10 southwestern districts have indulged in an orgy of killing, reports APB.

The radicals, in last one-months, have killed 31 people including dissidents in their own gangs, "condemned to death" about 50 others and drawn up a list of another 500 whose lives they intend to terminate, local sources said.

According to their count, six people were murdered in Chuadanga, five in Meherpur, two in Kushtia, 16 in Jessore, one in Satkhira and one in Khulna. The activists of rival groups killed most of them.

The day police started combing operation, an underground party cadres shot to death Firoz of Harokandi village and slaughtered Moniruzzaman of sadar thana. On the same day Hassan of Ramkrishnapur in Jessore was gunned down by members of a rival gang.

The killings have continued to date, creating a reign of terror in the region, people living in the respective areas said.

The 'terrorists' have made a list of suspected informers and others who are supposedly co-operating with the police.

Sources further said people had been passing sleepless nights as the depredations and violence by the numerous so-called bahinis continued to increase.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque addressing at the inaugural function of five-day workshop arranged recently by Condensed Matter Physics Group of the Physics Department. — Star photo

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Ferry Division, Barisal (RHD) Tender Notice

- Quotation : 07 of RHD, Ferry Division, Notice No Barisal/1998-99.
- Name of work : Supplying of electrical spare parts for 150 KW man engine remote control under Ferry Sub-Division, Barisal during the year 1998-99.
- Estimated cost : Total quoted taka.
- Earnest money : 2% (two per cent) of quoted rate.
- Eligibility of contractor : "A to E" general category contractor of RHD, as per financial capacity & territorial jurisdiction.
- Availability of tender schedule : 1) Executive Engineer, RHD, Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna.
2) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal only office hours. No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender schedule.
- Tender receiving officer : (1) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Circle, Khulna.
(2) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna.
- Last date of selling tender documents : 10-01-99/27-9-1405 (only office hours).
- Last date of receiving tender in sealed cover : 11-01-99/28-9-1405 at 12 Noon.
- Date and time of opening tender : 13-01-99/30-9-1405 at 1 PM.
- Date and time of lottery (if applicable) : 13-01-99/30-9-1405 at 3 PM.

DFP-27300-28/12/98
G-08

Executive Engineer
RHD, Ferry Division, Barisal.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Division, Naogaon

Notice Inviting RHD Tender 2nd Call

- Tender Notice No : 18 NRD/1997-98 Eng.
- Name of work : Earth work in road embankment at 6th (Part), 7th and 8th Km. of Naogaon Town By-pass Road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 1997-98 in 2 (Two) Groups.
- Chargeable Head : 266 CA.
- Estimated cost : As per group list.
- Earnest money : As per group list.
- Time allowed for completion of work : As per group list.
- Eligibility of bidders : As per group list.
- Last date for selling tender documents : 13-01-99/30-09-1405 Beng during office hour.
- Last date and time of receiving tenders : 14-01-99/01-10-1405 Beng up to 12.30 PM.
- Date and time for opening tenders : 17-01-99/04-10-1405 Beng at 12.45 PM.
- Name of offices where tenders will be received : i) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi.
ii) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Rajshahi/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka.
iii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Naogaon/Nawabgoni/Rajshahi.
- Name of offices where tender documents will be sold : i) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi.
ii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Naogaon/Rajshahi/Nawabgoni/Planning Division (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
iii) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Naogaon/Patnalia/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Naogaon.

NB: Bidding contractor must submit 'TIN' and 'VAT' Registration certificate along with tenders otherwise tender will be treated as informal. Earth work in road embankment at 6th (p), 7th & 8th KM of Naogaon Town By-pass Road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 1997-98 in 2 (two) Groups.

Group No	Name of work & location	Chargeable head	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time allowed for completion of work	Eligibility of bidders
1 (one)	Earth work for construction of Road Embankment at 6th (p) & 7th KM of Naogaon Town By-pass Road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 1997-98.	266 CA	14,85,489.00	29710.00	50 (fifty) days from the date of issue of work order.	'A' to 'D' General Category (RHD) contractor.
2 (two)	Earth work for construction of Road Embankment at 8th KM of Naogaon Town By-pass Road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 1997-98.	266 CA	22,08,759.00	44,176.00	60 (sixty) days from the date of issue of work order.	do

NB: Contractors who participated in the 1st call and failed to submit formal tender and whose tenders have been cancelled subsequently are not eligible to participate in this tender but others participants are eligible.

DFP-27401-29/12/98
G-09

Md. Nabinoor Islam Khan
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Naogaon.