

## News snaps

## Removal of Panchhari OC demanded

KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 6: A procession comprising of businessmen and members of the locality was brought out here on Wednesday demanding the immediate removal of the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Panchhari station, reports APB.

The processionists also sought the arrest of the terrorists operating in the border area of the district. They also submitted a memorandum to the TNO in this regard. Led by local Awami League leaders the procession went round the main thoroughfares of the town. A peace meeting was later held with Panchhari Awami League president Mohammad Yusuf in the chair. Among others, local BCL president Bijoy Kumar Dey, former Chhatra League leader Joynath Dey, Panchhari station Awami League Secretary Abdur Rashid, BNP leader Belal Hossain, tribal leader Jagdish Chakma and Market Development Committee's Secretary Ujjal Baran Nandi spoke at the meeting.

## Alleged extortionist arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 6: An alleged extortionist was caught red-handed along with a pistol from Banbaria near Jamuna Bridge on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said the unidentified youth along with his accomplices hijacked a motorbike from one Lutfur Rahman in the area at about 6 pm. Local people caught him when he fell down from the bike as he tried to speed away. They gave him a tremendous thrashing before handing him over to police. He was undergoing treatment in police custody.

## Sunflower farming on 600 hectares

BHERAMARA, Mar 6: About six hundred hectares have been brought under sunflower cultivation in 10 south western districts of the country in the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are Kushtia, Magura, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Narail, Jessore, Bagherhat, Satkhira and Khulna. According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, seven hundred and fourteen demonstration plots have been set up for cultivation of Kirani variety of sunflower as the soil in these districts is suitable for cultivation of this variety of sunflower. Sunflower oil is widely used as edible oil as it is free from lemonic and erosic acids which are hazardous to health. About six lakh maunds of sunflower seeds are expected to be produced by this cultivation.

## 4 murderers get life term

MAGURA, Mar 6: Four persons have been sentenced to life term for killing a man at Thoipara village in Salikhana thana in the district in 1989, reports APB.

Additional Sessions Judge Golam Robbani sentenced Prafulla Kumar Biswas, Nikhil Biswas, Susanta and Prasanta Kumar for killing one Ratan while he was working in his field, court sources said. The killing was a sequel to previous enmity. The verdict was passed recently.

## Road "under construction" for 22 yrs

JHENIDAH, Mar 6: A 20-km road has been "under construction" for about 22 years, reports APB.

Earth work for the Jhenidah-Tikeri road was completed in 1976 and construction of bridges began. But that far and no more. Some five kilometres were carpeted in about ten years. A decade ago, Roads and Highways officials had said the road would be completed "soon". When contacted, the officials told this correspondent recently that they would begin work as soon as funds are available.

## Manikganj Bar Assoc poll held

MANIKGANJ, Mar 6: Election of Manikganj Bar Association was held on Sunday, reports APB.

Mohammad Rahmat Ali and Lutfur Rahman were elected President and General Secretary respectively. The election, held at the Association office, was conducted by Advocate Khondokar Sharif Mia and Advocate Jahirul Alam Khan Lodi. A total of 171 voters cast their votes in the election.

## Clash at religious function: 50 hurt

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 6: At least 50 people were injured in a clash between followers of Maizbandari and other villagers at a *maihil* (religious function) at Shahpur Dip in Teknaf on Monday night, reports APB.

Five of the injured have been admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital in serious condition. They are Rashid Ahmed, 52, Asad Ali, 50, Abdul Aziz, 80, Sikander Mia, 30, and Mohammad Hossain, 56. Rashid Ahmed claimed that of the injured, about 15 were followers of Maizbandari. The clash took place when the villagers opposed to Maizbandari attacked them, he claimed. When contacted on Tuesday, SP of Cox's Bazar Ameer Uddin told that he was informed about the incident. He has asked Teknaf police to visit the spot, he added.

## Freedom Fighter dead

PATUAKHALI, Mar 6: Valiant freedom fighter Advocate Hafizur Rahman alias Forkan Mia of Nababpara died of cardiac arrest at Patuakhali Sadar Hospital on Wednesday night. He was 83, reports UNB.

Rahman, paternal uncle of woman MP Nargis Ara Haq, left behind his wife, a son, one daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. He was buried at Patuakhali graveyard after his namaj-e-janaza at local Bara Masjid premises after Asr prayers.

## Urs mahfil concludes

NETRAKONA, Mar 6: The three-day long annual Urs mahfil of Hazrat Shah Sultan Kamaruddin Rumi (RA), the reputed Muslim saint of the sub-continent concluded on March 4 at the saint's holy major sharif at Madanpur, about five kilometres from here, reports BSS.

Waz mahfil, Qurankhwan, zikir asker and special prayers were held at the mazar sharif on this holy occasion. Besides, Mazar Sharif Maintenance Committee distributed *shuru* including cooked food and sweets among the devotees. Several lakhs of devotees from far-flung areas of the country and the neighbouring state of India attended the Urs mahfil. On the concluding day special prayers were held at the mazar sharif. A large number of devotees attended the prayers seeking divine blessings for peace, progress and prosperity of the nation and unity and solidarity of the Muslim Ummah.

## Alleged terrorists arrested

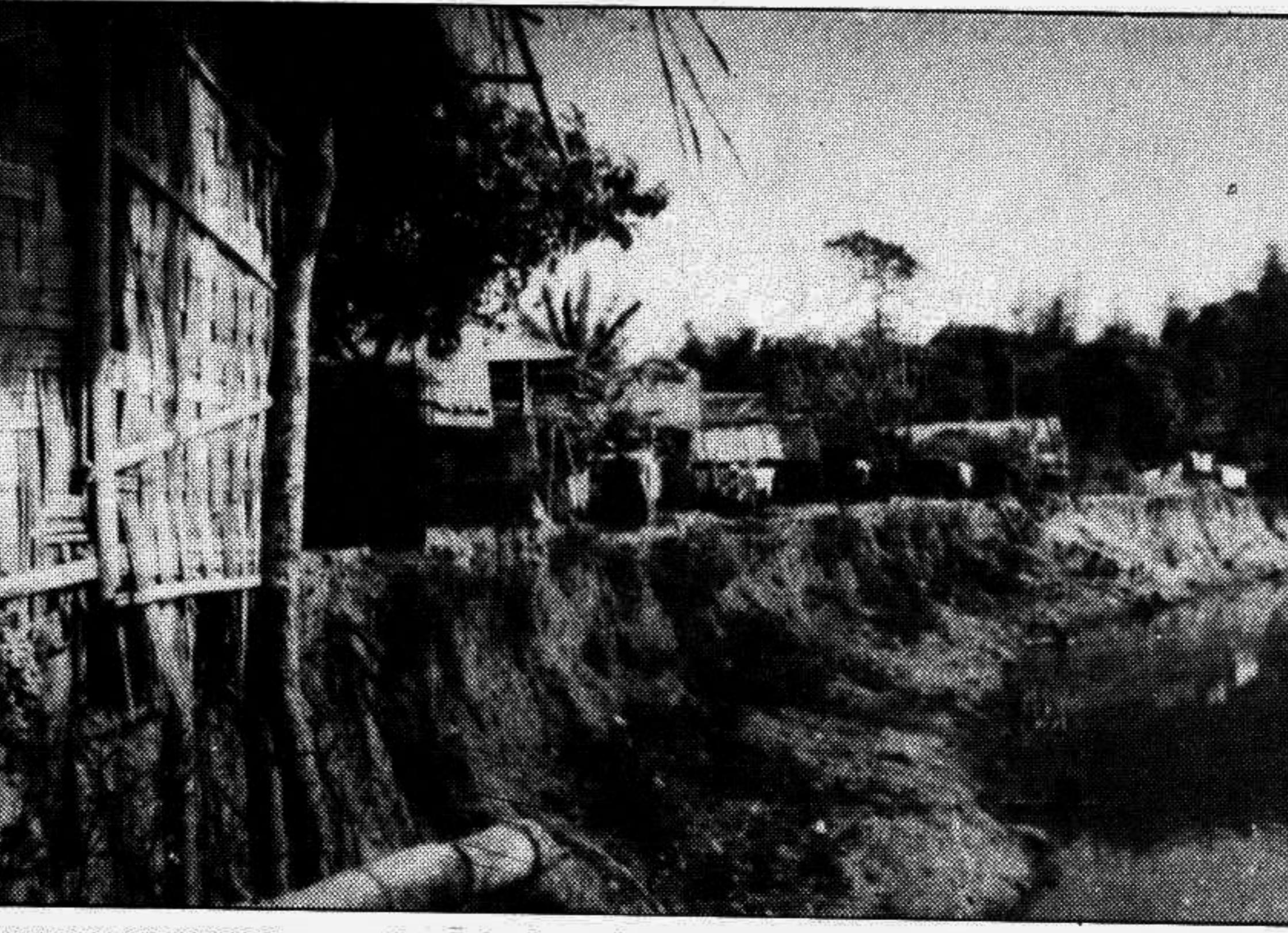
BHOLA, Mar 6: Some 10 terrorists were arrested along with arms in separate police raids from the different parts of Bhola thana and Borhan Uddin thana on Tuesday, reports APB.

Police said, acting on a tip off, a contingent of police led by SI Gazi Abdul Hakim of Bhola Thana, raided hotel 'Aram' located at Notun Bazar of the town at night and arrested Babu alias Dhakai Babu, 22, Shohel, Soharab Hossain, Enayet Hossain and Kamol. A pistol was recovered from the possession of one gang member. The arrested persons were sent to jail-hajat after a case was filed against them. On the same night, in another operation, Village Patrol Police under Borhan Uddin thana, rounded up Masud, 30, Jasim, 32, Mahiuddin, 32, Bhutto, 25 and Farhad, 25 while they were allegedly taking preparation for committing dacoity at one Abu member's house at Togbi.

## Housewife beaten to death

NAOGAON, Mar 6: A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Bhathanta village in Manda thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to a delayed official information, Wahidul mercilessly beat his wife Fatema, 28, on February 24 following a quarrel over a trifling matter and left her unconscious. The victim breathed her last after a few hours. Wahidul remained absconding since the murder.



KHAGRACHHARI: Scores of people have become landless due to erosion by the river Changi recently.

— Star photo

4 killers awarded RI on various terms in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Mar 6: Four persons were found guilty and sentenced to Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) on different terms on charge of killing.

Md Rashidul Hasan Patowari, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Third Court, Kishoreganj, delivered the judgement on February 14 against the accused for killing one Dildar of village Kumarpur in Pakundia thana.

Accused Montazuddin Nayan and Chandu were sentenced to suffer RI for three months more while Helena, wife of the deceased was sentenced to suffer RI for five years and to pay a fine of Taka 1,000, in default, to suffer RI for two months more.

The court also found three persons not guilty and they were acquitted of the charge.

According to the prosecution story, on the night of May 28, 1996, Dildar was called to his father-in-law's house of the same village on the plea of some important talks where he was beaten and strangled to death. The accused later fled away leaving the deadbody in the compound of Pakundia Thana Health Complex.

A case was registered with Pakundia police who after investigation submitted charge-sheet against seven persons.

### Price of fertilisers up in Netrakona dist

NETRAKONA, Mar 6: Price

hike of chemical fertilisers in the local markets here is hampering the cultivation during the current Irri-Boro season, reports UNB.

Local farmers complained that a section of dishonest traders have created artificial crisis in a bid to earn windfall profit.

The flood affected poor farmers of 10 thanas are buying a 50 kg bag of urea at Tk 350 as against its normal rate of Tk 240 to 250.

A large number of farmers of Sadar, Atpara, Madan, Kendua, Kalimakanda, Barhatta, Durgapur, Mohanganj, Purbadhal and Khalilajuri thanas complained that there are no TSP fertilisers in the market for the last fortnight. As a result, they cannot use it while preparing their fields.

They alleged that most of the fertiliser traders were selling banned Indian SSP fertilisers in the name of TSP to the ignorant farmers at an exorbitant price.

According to a reliable source, most of the dealers are selling the fertilisers of their quotas at mill gate and some other dealers in cooperation with the dishonest officials are hoarding fertilisers to create artificial crisis in the rural markets.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

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### Diarrhoea claims 17 lives in Jessore

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Mar 6: Diarrhoea has broken out in eight thanas here in an epidemic form.

A total of 17 persons have died during the months of January and February.

Jessore District Health Office sources confirmed the death figure.

Official sources also confirmed 4,353 victims who were attacked with diarrhoea during two months.

A total of 96 medical teams were a working across the district, the source told further.

According to thanawise report, eight persons died and 336 attacked with this disease in Jessore Sadar in January.

In February two persons died and 209 were attacked in this thana.

Three persons died of diarrhoea and 105 were attacked in Sharsha thana in January. A total of 75 persons were attacked in February. There was no casualty in this month.

During January and February last 564 persons were attacked in the disease in Jhinkergacha thana.

In Chowgacha thana two persons died and 120 were attacked during January and February.

In Monirampur thana 741 persons were attacked in the aforementioned two months.

Number of casualty in Keshabpur thana was one and 286 others were attacked during this period.

One person died of diarrhoea in Bagherpara and 621 were attacked in this period.

None was killed in the disease in Obhoinagar thana. Only 555 persons were attacked with the disease.

### Agri-loan distribution programme

JESSORE, Mar 6: The Bangladesh Krishibank, Jessore zonal office, has undertaken an extensive programme for distribution of some Tk 15.07 crore in eight thanas here through 18 of its branches during the current financial year.

Loans will be distributed for augmenting food production and alleviation of poverty among the rural people.

The branches include Jessore town, Rupdia, Monirampur, Gopalpur, Kuadah bazar, Sarsa, Naryanpur, Noapara, Jhikargacha, Keshabpur, Mashihati, Hassanpur, Bagharpura, Navaran, Kayemkhola, Lakhshampur, Chongachha and Jagadishpur.

According to bank sources, so far an amount of Tk 10.52 crore has already been distributed among 8,520 loanees.

The loan disbursement programme will continue till the end of June next. The major portion of the loan was distributed for the production of Aus, Aman, Boro, potato, wheat, banana, mustard and various types of pulses and cotton.

### Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from bonafide books suppliers for purchasing scientific books for the library of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Form containing terms and conditions of tender will be available from the Cashier of the Council on payment of Taka 750/- (seven hundred and fifty) (non-refundable). And tender will have to be dropped into the tender box kept at the library building on 19.4.99 at 11 AM. Earnest money at the rate of 2.5% per cent (two and a half per cent) of the total amount of take quoted by the tenderer in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft in favour of the Secretary of the Parishad will have to be deposited with the tenderer. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM before the tenderers or their representatives, if any one remains present. Tender schedule can be purchased till 15.3.99 during office hours.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

Secretary  
BCSIR  
Dhaka



SYLHET: Most of the footpaths, even part of the main roads in busy areas of the town are occupied by vendors, causing serious traffic jams. This photo was taken from Bandar Bazar area which is the central part of the town.

— Star photo by Iqbal Siddique

### Barisal-Dhaka route Criminal incidents up on board vessels

BARISAL, Mar 6: The security of the passengers on Dhaka-Barisal river route is being threatened by the increase of criminal incidents on board the vessels, reports UNB.

Regular passengers said a group of organised criminals are responsible for the situation. They lure the passengers to take different food items like tea, betel leaf and cigarette on board the launches and steamers for making them unconscious. Later the gang take away valuable belongings of the victims, they added.

A large number of criminals are active on the route, said the sources adding that there are allegations that some employees of launches and steamers might have connection with the gang.

Police sources said that about 200 launch passengers fell victim of the organised gang during the last three months.

Two such incidents were reported on the route on January 16 and 17. Passengers of MV Deepraj and MV Sagar were robbed off by making them unconscious, said the sources.

The owners of these launches failed to provide adequate security of the passengers and the incidents are going on alarmingly, they added. The authorities in connection with such incidents so far arrested none.

A member of Ansar on duty in one of the launches said they could not ensure safety and security of the passengers because their number was too inadequate.

There are 1,500 to 2,000 passengers in a launch while the number of Ansar is only six.

Group No - "Ka"

Supply of gear box bearing and hydraulic motor for hydromaster propulsion unit model-120 FBR for Badarkali-Janabazar ferry under Chittagong Workshop Division (R&H). Year-1998-99. Head of expenditure: 168 Roads, Bridges and Kheyaghat 2 repair.

Group No - "Ga"

Supply of dial indicator and solenoid valve for ferry no-UT-02-22/82 for Badarkali-Janabazar ferry ghat under Chittagong Workshop Division (R&H). Year-1998-99. Head of expenditure: 168 Roads, Bridges and Kheyaghat 2 repair.

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