

News snaps

Outlawed party member killed

JESSORE, Mar 10: A young man, said to be a member of an outlawed party, was killed by his rivals at Poltadanga in Kotwali thana on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said Monirul Islam, 25, the outlaw, died on the spot when his rivals chopped him indiscriminately at about 9 pm. Witnesses said a group of about eight gunmen kidnapped Monir when he along with his wife reached Poltadanga on his way home at Bagdanga village in Kotwali thana from his in-law's house. His wife, however, escaped unhurt. Police recovered the body and sent it to Jessore General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Smuggled goods seized

FENI, Mar 10: Bangladesh Rifles in separate drives at different parts here during the last fortnight seized smuggled goods worth Tk 11 lakh, reports UNB.

The contraband goods included 1,774 bottles of phensidyl, 2,214 kg sugar, 681 kg turmeric, 166 bottle Horlicks, 300 kg cumin, 281 kg powder milk, 480 shaving cream, 110 cft timber, one bicycle, one tempo and one pick-up. The goods seized in five raids on February 18, February 28 and March 2 were deposited with the Customs office.

Body recovered

KHULNA, Mar 10: The body of a worker, who drowned in the river Pashur at 12 noon on Tuesday, was recovered from the Mongla port area after an hour, reports UNB.

Port sources said the victim Mosharrar fell into the river when the hook of a jute bale pierced his body while he was lifting jute to Banglar Maya barge from another barge at the port. The divers after one hour of frantic efforts recovered the body.

Five arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 10: Police rounded up five people, two of them drug-addicts and recovered 130 bottles of Phensidyl from Mahmudpur area here on Tuesday, reports APB.

They also recovered a fake note of Tk 500 from their possession. Witnesses said, police arrested them from the illegal drug trafficking spot of Mahmudpur when they were engaged in an altercation over exchange of a fake note of Tk 500. Two drug-addicts Feroz alias Milton, 26 and Awal, 22, went there to purchase Phensidyl in exchange of the fake note but the peddlers refused it accept it which ensued the dispute. The arrested shopkeepers are — Raisuddin, Mansur and Salahuddin.

Jessore killing protested

NETRAKONA, Mar 10: Speakers at a protest meeting held at Shaheed Minar here on March 8 expressed their due concern and condemnation over the terrorist act at Jessore on Saturday night, reports BSS.

They also demanded exemplary punishment of the offenders responsible for the heinous crime. Netrakona District Uddichi Shilpi Gosthi organised the meeting in protest against the incident of killing of several people and injury of over 200 others in powerful bomb blast at the cultural function of Uddichi at Jessore Town Hall premises. Presided over by president of Netrakona district Uddichi Shilpi Gosthi Parimal Ray, the protest meeting was addressed, among others, by General Secretary of Netrakona district Uddichi Shilpi Gosthi Sanwar Hossain Bhuiya, President of Netrakona district JSD (Rab) Golam Ershadur Rahman, General Secretary of Netrakona Prathasa Sahitya Gosthi Monir Hossain Barun and president of Netrakona Rassel Smriti Sangsad Chapal Datta.

2 housewives killed

RAJSHAHI, Mar 10: Two housewives were killed by their husbands, one of them for dowry, here on Sunday, reports APB.

Jotsna Begum, 16, was strangled by her husband, Nurul Huda, for dowry at Shibpur village in Charghat thana. Police have arrested the killer husband. In the other incident, Tapati Rani, 25, a pregnant housewife, was beaten to death allegedly by her husband, Nikhil Chandra, at Krishapur Maidha Para village in Puthia thana. The husband is absconding.

Workshop on farming

MADARIPUR, Mar 10: A day-long training workshop on farming, organised by Agriculture Extension Department was held here recently, reports BSS.

A total of 25 officials including agriculture officers, subject matter officers and block supervisors participated in the workshop. Discussions on pest attack, harvesting seed-bed development and seed preservation were held. The workshop adopted some recommendations.

2 rapists arrested

MANIKGANJ, Mar 10: Two persons were arrested on March 8 for allegedly raping a woman at Dhulandi village in Gheor thana, reports APB.

Gheor police said they arrested one Sobhan, son of Korban Ali and Kohinor for allegedly violating the woman at the former's house on Sunday night. The arrest was made after the woman lodged a complaint with police, they said.

Women's Day observed

COMILLA, Mar 10: International Women's Day was observed here on March 8, reports BSS.

Different socio-cultural organisations arranged various programmes including rally, discussion and cultural function. In the morning Sammilito Uddipan Parishad brought out a procession from the town hall maidan, paraded different important roads of the town and ended at the town hall maidan. Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Maola inaugurated the procession. Different socio-cultural organisations, NGOs and women workers participated in the procession. A discussion meeting was held at town hall. Dr Zohaida Hannan, President of Sammilito Uddipan Parishad presided over the meeting.

Indian wine recovered

MEHERPUR, Mar 10: Narcotics and Drug Control Department and Meherpur police recovered 60 bottles of Indian wine from the house of Montu Khan at Malopara in the town recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off Narcotics officials and police jointly raided the house of Montu Khan and recovered the contraband wine. Accused Montu Khan is absconding.

Agri-fair at Chuadanga

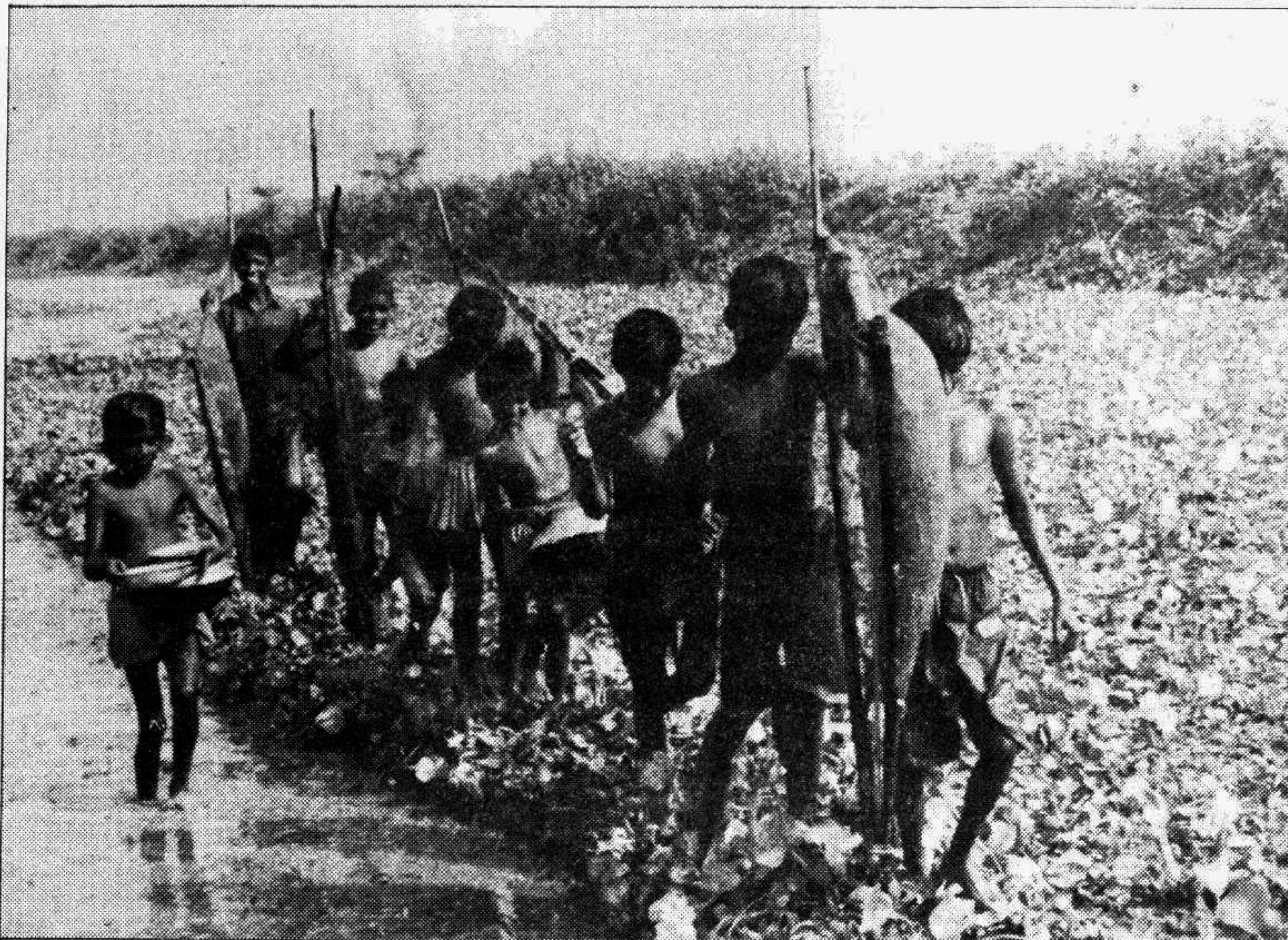
CHUADANGA, Mar 10: A 5-day long agriculture fair began here at the office premises of the Chuadanga District Agriculture Extension Department on Saturday, reports BSS.

The fair was organised by Chuadanga District Agriculture Extension Department (AED). M R Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga formally inaugurated the fair in presence of a huge gathering. On the opening day, 15 stalls were set up in the fair. The stall displayed various crops and vegetables, food, insecticides, research items on food, irrigation machineries, nursery of flower and horticulture, poultry birds, eggs, fish cultivation, fertiliser, homestead gardening and different commodities produced by the cultivators here.

IRRI-Boro farming threatened

CHANDPUR, Mar 10: Cultivation of IRRI-Boro paddy on 21,000 hectares of land under Chandpur Irrigation Project is facing a serious setback due to lack of proper irrigation facilities, reports UNB.

According to Water Development Board sources, six pumps of the project are lying inoperative for a week due to low voltage of power hindering the cultivation. The power is being supplied only after midnight for a few hours which is quite inadequate to irrigate the fields, it added. The irrigation project, covering six thanas of Chandpur and Laxmipur districts, was established at a cost of Tk 80 crore to provide irrigation facilities to 21,000 hectares of land.



Rural boys enjoying the joy of fishing at a village in Munshiganj.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Price of fertiliser up in Gopalganj

From Alimuzzaman Miah

GOPALGANJ, Mar 10: The price of chemical fertiliser has shot up in the markets of five thanas here.

The farmers have complained that some dishonest traders created the artificial crisis of fertilisers to earn wind-fall profit.

The flood effected farmers in different areas here are buying a 50 kg bag of urea at Taka 350 against the normal rate of Taka 240 to Taka 250.

The government appointed dealers here, Madhumati Enterprise, Messers Kalipada Saha, Messers Sonali traders, Moni traders, Mouri Enterprise and Messers Parimal Karmakar, received 700 metric

tons of urea by two turns as per the government allotment this year. The dealers and traders hoarded the fertilisers and have created artificial crisis. They are selling those at exorbitant prices in the black-markets violating the government rule.

A large number of farmers of Sadar, Tungipara, and Kotahipara complained that they were not getting TSP fertiliser in the markets for more than half a month. As a result, they could not use it in their fields.

They alleged that most of the fertiliser traders were selling banned Indian SSP fertiliser to the innocent farmers at an exorbitant price. The SSP fertiliser is less effective than the TSP.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department is in charge of monitoring the receipt and distribution of fertiliser locally, but he is found to be indifferent of the prevailing crisis of fertilisers for unknown reason.

According to a reliable source, most of the dealers are selling fertilisers of their quotas in the blackmarket and some dealers in cooperation with the dishonest officials are hoarding fertiliser for creating artificial crisis in the markets.

The farmers urged the government to ensure smooth supply of fertiliser at fair prices and called for stringent action against the persons responsible for creating artificial scarcity.

13 killers get life term in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 10: A total of 13 people were sentenced for life imprisonment in the court of Abdul Kuddus Mia, Second Additional District and Sessions Judge here on Monday for killing one in Hizla here.

Convicted Bachchu Gharani, Sekandar, Pandit, Delwar, Siraj, Jainal, Bellal, Kabir, Sukkur, Magbul, Alauddin, Asera Khatun and Monowara Begum were also fined Taka 5,000 each, in default to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

Monowara Begum is still absconding.

Case history in brief is that these convicted people seriously injured one Ali Akbar of Patanbhangal village in Hizla thana on March 14 in 1996 following previous enmity. Later on he succumbed to his injuries at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital on March 25 in 1996.

A case was filed and police after proper investigation submitted the chargesheet.

The judge after examining nine witnesses pronounced this judgment in a crowded court on Monday.

'Irregularities' at Halsa branch of RAKUB in Natore being investigated

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Mar 10: The regional manager's office of Rajshahi Krishi Unayan Bank (RAKUB) here has started an investigation into alleged irregularities in distribution of agricultural loan at Halsa union branch of the bank in sadar thana.

A high official of the bank's Natore regional manager's office has been assigned to investigate into the alleged irregularities. He will identify the irregularities and find out the persons responsible for the same. He will also check whether the loans were properly distributed and utilised or not. He has been asked to submit his report within 10 days.

Action will be taken against the persons responsible for the irregularities on the basis of the investigative report, official sources said.

Educational instts in Satkhira lack proper facilities

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Mar 10: In the education sector Satkhira district is lagging far behind than other areas of the country.

Facilities for higher education are almost absent here. The standard of education imparted through the existing undeveloped substandard colleges here is very poor. As such the limited number of students of these colleges can hardly compete with those of other regions.

Not only illiteracy of the vast multitude of its people, but also the lack of good and meaningful education is a serious handicap for the development of the region.

The condition of other newly established institutions here is deplorable. Proper academic environment is lacking in all the institutions due to dearth of qualified and trained teachers, absence of libraries with valuable books, scientific apparatus with adequate research materials, extra-curricular activities, recreational facilities and due to other problems.

The number of primary schools here is hopelessly inadequate to cater to the needs of the primary education. The rate of illiteracy here is much higher than that of other regions of the country. The alarming extent of illiteracy coupled with extreme poverty is eating up the vitals of the people.

As functional literacy is a pre-requisite for and closely linked with any development activities and also in agriculture and other vocational pursuits, special steps may be taken for the spread of primary education in the district to give the youths knowledge to help develop their inner faculties.

It is requested that the thana level primary schools be included in the pilot project and other primary schools in the unions be included in the development programmes on priority basis.

Because of the riverine nature and communication difficulties here the growth of more primary schools at village level under government assistance is essential.

Many primary schools here

are accommodated in dilapidated kutcha houses without any fencing and even without sitting arrangement and other minimum facilities. A good number of primary schools have either been blown away or badly damaged by flood, cyclone and storm. Due to the department corruption more than 250 primary schools of Satkhira are lying in a precarious condition. These schools need immediate reconstruction and government help by way of regular grants.

The number of primary girls' schools is also hopelessly poor and in the interest of spreading female education, girls' primary schools need to be established in each union and other important places here.

A good number of primary schools set up by local initiative are about to close down due to the delay in receiving help from the government.

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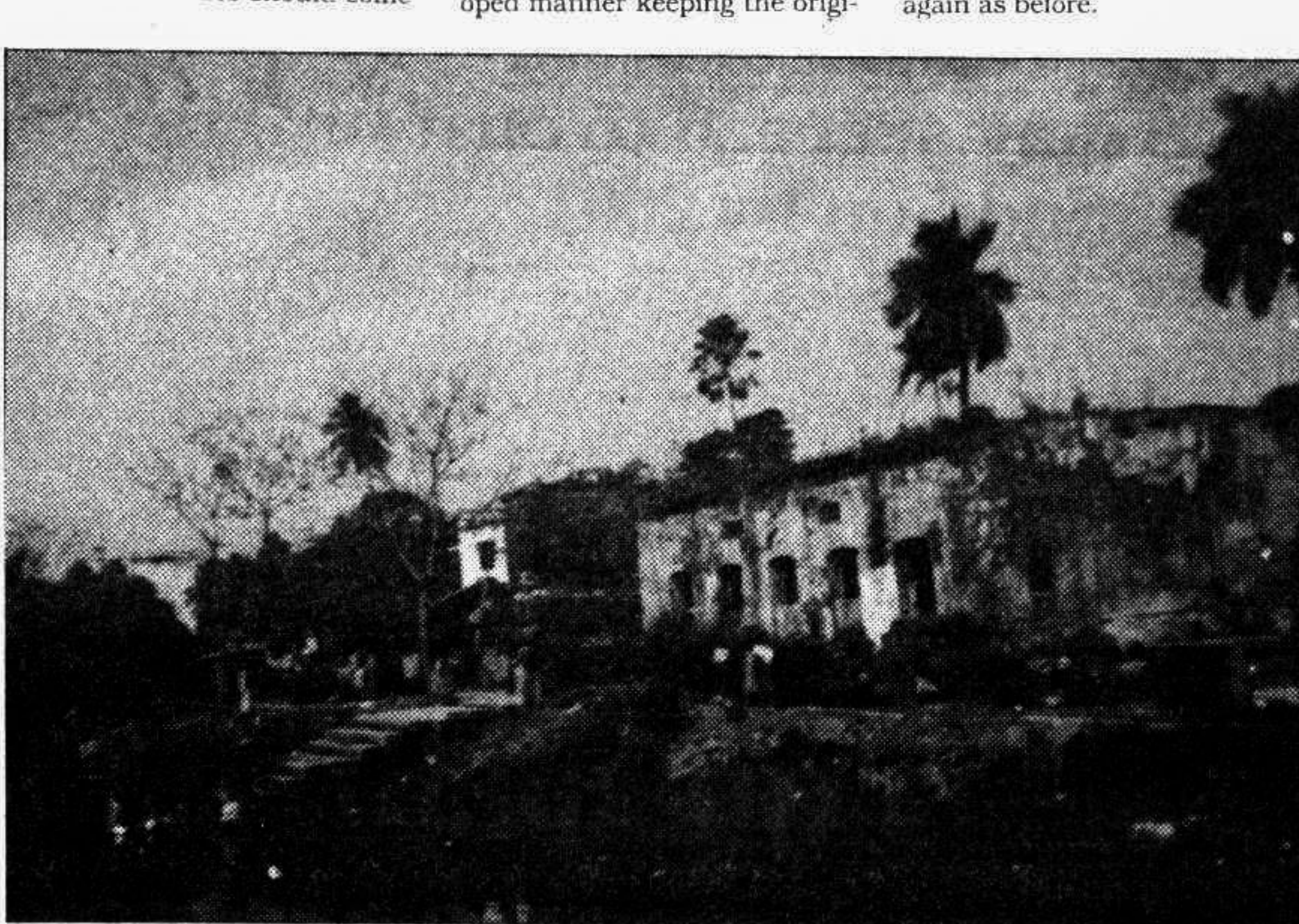
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Century-old Ambika Hall may collapse at any moment

From Abdul Matin Fakir

polluting the area. Now, it is the demand of the local intelligentsia that the concerned authorities should come forward with a fresh plan and design to reconstruct the Ambika Hall building in a developed manner keeping the original building intact. In the developed Ambika Hall, cultural programmes may be arranged again as before.



Pitiable condition of Ambika Hall in Faridpur.

— Star photo

Historic March 7 observed in dists

The historic March 10 commemorating the memorable speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was observed in all the districts of the country in a befitting manner on Sunday, report agencies.

In Madaripur, Awami League and its front organisations arranged elaborate programmes marking the occasion which included hoisting of national and party flags at the Awami League district office and placing floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Later a discussion was held at the Awami League district office, presided over by district Awami League president Alhaj Fardaus Zamadar.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by district Awami League Secretary Babu Uddipon Sikder, district Chhatra League president Khalid Hossain Erad, secretary Elias Ahmed, Moklesur Rahman Rasel, Rejaul Huq Rejen and local elite.

In Barisal, Awami League and different political parties and socio-cultural organisations arranged elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programme included playing of the speech of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, milad mahfil, discussion and feeding of the

poor. Barisal district unit of Awami League held a discussion at the central party office in the town.

The speakers said, the clarification call of the Bangabandhu on March 7 inspired the nation to free the country from the clutches of the then Pakistani rulers.

In Kushtia, Awami League, Chhatra League, Jubo League, Sramik League and Bangabandhu Parishad arranged elaborate programme on this occasion.

National flag and Awami League flag were hoisted in the morning at Awami League office.

A big procession organised by Awami League and its front organisations was brought out which paraded the main roads of the town.

A discussion was held on this occasion. Anwar Ali, former secretary of Kushtia Awami League presided over the meeting.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Motiur Rahman Laltu, President, Bangabandhu Parishad, Zulfiqar Ali Arzo, and Murshed Alam Modhu.

Similar programmes were also arranged in other districts to mark the occasion.

Owners using firewood in brick fields

LAXMIPUR, Mar 10: Ignoring fight against environmental degradation in the country, people here are setting up numerous brick fields threatening the public health, reports UNB.

Official sources, preferring anonymity, said they don't know for certain how many brick fields are there in the district as many of these were set up without permission.

Once the Upazilla Chairman was the authority of issuing licence for setting up this industry. This has now been changed and the Deputy Commissioner has been assigned with this responsibility.

But due to his preoccupation, the DC can hardly look into the matter, said the source.

Violating the rules, the owners of the brick fields are using firewood and tires with impunity polluting the environ-

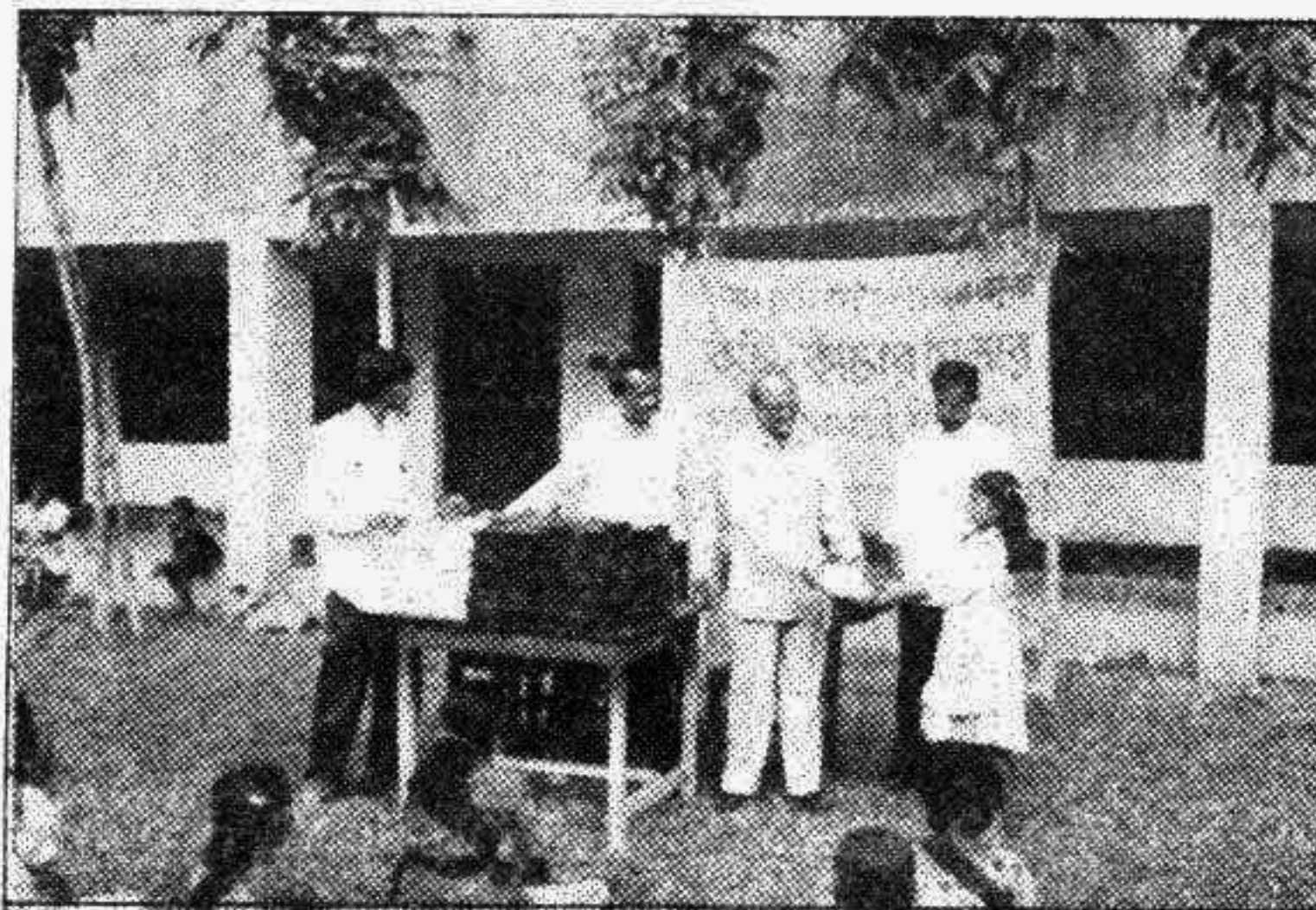
ment. The sky in the surrounding areas turns smoggy with the black smoke of the kilns.

Local farmers alleged that they do not get sufficient groundwater for their crop field as the water is being used indiscriminately by the brick fields.

Besides, many people particularly the children suffer from various skin diseases and respiratory disorders due to the air pollution.

Sources said there is a provision not to use more than one and a half acres of land for brick field but practically it has been violating rampantly as most of the brick fields are set up on 3 to 5 acres of land.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take necessary action in this regard.



CHANDPUR: Prof Mohammad Hossain Khan, organiser of Ankur Kachi Kucher Mela distributing clothes among the distressed children who were affected by the last year's floods.

— Star photo

Six thieves arrested in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 10: Six electric-wire lifters were caught by the villagers at village Elonghura in Itna thana recently.

They were handed over to police later on. They are Zaimuddin, Babul Mia, Abu Bakkar, Alal Mia, Bacchu Mia and Giasuddin.

They were caught red-handed by the villagers while they were fleeing away after lifting huge quantities of wires from 36 electric poles in Elonghura union, police said.

4 killed in separate road accidents

A total of four people were killed in Gazipur and Mirersari road accidents on Sunday, reports BSS.

In Gazipur, three people including a boy were killed on Sunday in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Gazipur and Dhaka-Sreepur highway.

Police sources said one Tulu, 47, died on the spot and Jamir Ali, 50, seriously injured when a bus hit an auto-rickshaw at around 4 pm at Gazipur intersection. Later Jamir Ali succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital.

Earlier on the day Biplob, 10, crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck when he was going to school at Bhabanipur on Dhaka-Sreepur highway at around 11 am. Eyewitness account and police said Biplob was riding a bicycle when the truck hit him.

In Chittagong, one unidentified passenger was killed and at least five others were injured in a road accident at Mirersari on Dhaka-Chittagong highway here on Sunday.

Police said the accident occurred when a Chittagong bound luxury coach fell into a ditch, killing one passenger on the spot.

The injured persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Mirersari police seized the bus, but the driver fled away.

Satkhira Bar executives

From Our Correspondent



SM Haidar (President)



Shah Alam (Secy)

SATKHIRA, Mar 10: Advocate SM Haidar and Advocate Shah Alam were elected President and General Secretary of Satkhira Bar Association respectively in the election held here recently.

The other executives are: Vice President-SM Abul Khair and Golam Rahman, Joint Secretary-Zillur Rahman, Assistant Secretary-SM Ataur Rahman and Zaman Uddin and Treasurer-Shafiqul Islam Safi, Members-Azad Ali, Azizul Islam, GMA Rahman, Anisul Kadir, Mahibul Islam, GM Abdul Matin, Tarun Bannerjee, ZM Abdullah, Abdur Rahman, Ashrafur Alam Siddique and Hosne Ara Haq.



KURIGRAM: Artistes rendering songs at a cultural function held recently at Kurigram Government women's college.

— Star photo