

News snaps

Two police officers sued

NETROKONA, Nov 28: The officer-in-charge and a sub-inspector of Kotwali thana were sued Thursday allegedly for torturing a leader of pro-Awami League Chhatra League, reports UNB.

Monwar Jahan Sujon, district organising secretary of BCL, filed the case against OC Syed Badruddoza and SI Mohammad Giasuddin with the First Class Magistrate Court. In his case, Sujon alleged that police picked him up from his business firm Monday night, brought him to the police station and tortured him on false allegations. Sujon also accused the police officers of grabbing his money and other belongings.

Discussion on Bhasani

NETRAKONA, Nov 28: A discussion meeting on the political life of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was held here recently, reports BSS.

Netrokona district unit of Bhasani Smriti Sangsad sponsored the discussion as a part of its three-day long programme to mark the 23rd death anniversary of Moulana Bhasani. Presided over by president of Netrakona district unit of Bhasani Smriti Sangsad T A Rahmatullah, the meeting was addressed, among others, by president of Netrakona district unit of JSD (Rab) Golam Ershadur Rahman, convenor of Netrakona district unit of Jatiya Party Advocate Liakath Ali Khan, Professor Muzammil Hussain and journalist Haider Jahan Chowdhury. The speaker paid tributes to Moulana Bhasani.

Workshop for newsmen

BANDARBAN, Nov 28: A three-day long workshop, on indepth reporting on 'Democracy and Human Rights', for journalists concluded at the hilltop rest house here on Friday, reports BSS.

A total of 22 journalists, including free-lance journalists, participated in the workshop presided over by Shahiduzzaman, Editor of News Network, Hassan Shahriar, special correspondent of The Ittefaq, distributed certificates among the participants as the chief guest. Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, special correspondent of BSS, and workshop coordinator Manirul Islam Monu were present in the workshop.

World Diabetic Day observed

MANIKGANJ, Nov 28: The World Diabetic Day was observed here on Sunday, reports BSS.

Various programmes were arranged on this occasion. A colourful procession was brought out which paraded the main roads of the town. A discussion was held at the local ADAB office. The meeting was presided over by Md Mahfuzur Rahman, Additional Deputy Magistrate. Prof Abu Azha Ahmed Asaduzzaman, Vice-President of Manikganj Diabetic Society, Nina Rahman, Secretary of the organisation Dr Sayeed Al-Mamun, and Abu Taher spoke on the occasion.

College building inaugurated

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 28: The newly constructed building of local Mazda Khatun Government Women's College was inaugurated on November 21, reports BSS.

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir inaugurated the newly constructed building. Facilities Department sources, the building was constructed under Education Ministry's 'New Nationalised Women College Development Project'. After completion of the building, at least 2,000 girl student will get better education facilities.

Two terrorists arrested

SATKHIRA, Nov 28: Shyamnagar thana police arrested two alleged terrorists along with 35 rounds of live cartridges from Chandipur Mollah Bari area under Kaliganj thana on Thursday, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and arrested Mostak Sheikh, 40, and Mijanur Rahman 38, and recovered 35 rounds of live cartridges from their possession. A case was filed in this connection.

Conference held

BARISAL, Nov 28: A day-long conference of Continental Courier Services (CCS) was held here on November 17, reports BSS.

The conference was presided over by Barisal Divisional Representative of CCS M Rafikul Islam. Managing Director of CCS M Ruhul Amin Chisti attended it as the chief guest while Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Mir Mujibur Rahman as special guest. It was attended, among others, by senior executives Golam Mostafa and Shakhawat Ullah Mukul and executives Monowar Hossain, Saiful Islam Tapan and SI Ikh Nurul Islam and Paurashava Panel Chairman Golam Mah.

Deer skins recovered

SATKHIRA, Nov 28: Officials of Kadamtali Forest Station recovered three deer skins from South Kadamtali village under Shyamnagar thana recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, acting on a tip-off, the officials raided the house of one Sirajul Islam of village South Kadamtali and recovered the deer skins from his house. A case was filed in this connection.

Training on management dev

COMILLA, Nov 28: A two-week long training course on management development for officers of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) concluded at Comilla BARD on Thursday, reports BSS.

Certificates were distributed among the participants in the concluding session. Director (Adm) of BARD Shahjada Elahi distributed the certificates. Director of BARD Khairul Kabir, Course Director Mir Kashem and Assistant Course Director Abdul Karim addressed the participants. Twenty-five officers of PDB participated.

Man killed in rivals' clash

MYMENSINGH, Nov 28: A clash between two rival groups at Borachar in Sadar thana on Friday left one person dead and eight others wounded, four seriously, reports UNB.

Police and locals said the clash ensued at about 10 am over land dispute. There has been a quarrel between two families of Razab Ali and Sharifuddin of Bartipara for long that erupted in a bloody fighting on the day. The victim, Billal Hossain, 45, died on the spot being struck with a sharp weapon amid the rioting. Four of the injured, identified as Razab Ali, 60, Tofazzal, 28, Hazrat Ali, 35, and Abdus Sattar, 30, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in 'critical condition'.

Youth hacked to death

BARISAL, Nov 28: Unidentified assailants hacked a young man to death and left another one seriously injured at Billabari village in sadar thana on Friday, police said, reports UNB.

They said the armed goons waylaid Masud, 24, son of Adam Ali, and his friend Sohrab, 25, and hit them indiscriminately with sharp weapons while they were returning home. Masud, who recently returned home from abroad, died on way to hospital while condition of Sohrab, admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, was stated to be critical. The body was taken to hospital morgue for autopsy. Cause behind the killing could not be known.

College student killed

BARISAL, Nov 28: A college student was killed in Banaripara thana on Thursday over an affair with a schoolgirl, reports UNB.

Police said Suman Peyada of village Bolar and his associates chopped and killed Ruhul Amin Ruku, 20, a degree student of Chakhar Government College, when he went to his fiancée's home at the village Thursday noon. The girl's family sources said Suman and his henchmen were threatening her repeatedly against maintaining affair with Ruku, also a college-unit activist of Chhatra League. After arrest, Suman confessed to his guilt to police.

Housewife beaten to death

RANGPUR, Nov 28: A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband over dowry in Pirganj thana on November 21, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Asma Begum, 22, wife of Motaleb of village Pachshimpura, in the thana. Police sources said Motaleb used to torture her wife to realise dowry money of Tk 6,000 promised during their marriage. But her father failed to pay the money due to his extreme poverty. On the fateful day, Motaleb started beating Asma mercilessly causing her instantaneous death. A case was filed with local police. Motaleb went into hiding soon after the incident.

Clash over paddy harvesting: 54 hurt in Barguna

Musclemen threatening farmers of shoal areas in Barisal divn

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Nov 28: With the arrival of Aman harvesting season, most farmers in shoal areas of Barisal division are being threatened from the local influential and their armed musclemen.

It is a regular feature every year when Aman paddy is ready for harvesting, musclemen known as *lathials* are engaged by the so-called landlords for looting paddy from fields shedding farmers' blood in the alleged disputed shoal areas.

Armed musclemen loot Aman paddy, kill and injure innocent, helpless farmers, sometimes rape their women and damage their houses by setting them on fire.

Poor farmers are easily exposed to the attack by armed hoodlums when they face resistance from them.

About one thousand shoal lands are sensitive, police said. Every year some influential landlords, failing to take lease of government khas lands in shoal areas, engage their musclemen in looting paddy from their fields.

They also occupy huge tracts of khas lands and newly emerged shoal lands in absence of proper demarcation line. They bring those under their possession by tagging with red flags.

From the last few years bloody clashes have been taking place over the harvesting of Aman paddy in different shoal areas along the river sides in the districts of Barisal, Barguna, Patuakhali and Bhola.

Laxmipur and Pirojpur.

Despite setting up of temporary police camps, bloody clashes could not be checked in the previous years.

Local farmers alleged that red flags have already been hoisted in the vulnerable shoal areas in the districts.

This season, farmers of Barisal division are expecting bumper production of Aman.

Meanwhile, police administration have already directed 30 thana administrations to make lists of musclemen and remain alert and vigilant about their activities.

Administration sources said, there are nearly 100 musclemen leaders under whom about three thousand musclemen create panic in different shoal lands over harvesting crops.

It is learnt from both administration and local sources that over 40 police camps have already been set up in the different shoal lands in the districts.

In some places, farmers alleged that police remained almost inactive as silent spectators during the swoop of musclemen.

Police Super of Patuakhali said, we are stressing on people's motivation than setting up police camps in the vulnerable shoal areas during the harvesting season.

In a big swoop of 200 armed musclemen on Charlatra under Galachipa thana of Patuakhali district, at least 100 helpless farmers had been injured and about 10 women had been raped in the harvesting season last year.

Two farmers had been killed on the spot. Many houses had also been gutted and raged to the ground during the attack.

Seven cases had been filed against 300 innocent farmers there.

Earlier, in the December last, at least 60 people had been

injured in clashes between two armed groups over harvesting of paddy at Dhanakali village of Kalapara thana in Patuakhali. Sixteen persons were admitted to hospital after the incident.

In another incident armed people of a rival group set ablaze at least 20 dwelling houses that left at least 35 people hurt at Char Monohar along the Bhola-Patuakhali border-line.

They looted away paddy on more than 250 acres of cropland. At least 30 dwelling houses had been torched at that time.

In Putiakali village under Rajapur thana of Jhalakati district one Yusuf Gazi, 52, had been killed on the spot and 20 people injured from both the clashing groups last year.

In these circumstances, more police personnel are needed now in the disputed shoal areas in the southern region to ease the situation and to save the farmers from musclemen's attack.

Meantime, more information and news of illegal activities of the armed musclemen have been received here from Bhola through the administration and local sources.

A very tense situation is prevailing in at least 16 shoal areas of Bhola. District administration advised to set up police camps in these shoal areas, but due to shortage of police personnel camps are yet to be set up, said police sources.

A very tense situation is prevailing now at Chatkimara and Chair Sitaram under sadar thana of Bhola where at any time bloody clashes may take place.



Farmers working at a disputed shoal land full of paddy in Barisal.

— Star photo

There is a demarcation problem and dispute along the borderlines at Mehendiganj thana of Barisal district and Bhola district.

Earlier in a joint meeting a decision had been taken to set up police camps at 11 sensitive shoal areas, but due to shortage of police even after deploying 11 magistrates in turns by the district administration this decision could not be materialised.

Meanwhile, Bhola police demanded two platoons of Range Reserve Force (RRF) to

DIG in Barisal divisional headquarters. The sensitive and vulnerable shoal lands in Bhola have been identified as Char Chatkimara, Char Sitaram, Kandakpur, Megh Bhasan, Bheulmia, Char Kalmi, Bheduria, Charbarret, Char Chhamiruddin, Char Zahiruddin, Baikunthapur, Char Naldugi, Char Lullin and Latar-char. One person had been killed at Sitaram following land dispute last week.

UNB reports from Barguna: At least 54 people were injured

in separate clashes over harvesting paddy in the district on Friday-Saturday.

Twenty-six of the injured were admitted to Barguna General Hospital while five to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital with serious wounds.

Hospital sources said the clashes took place in different villages of sadar, Betagi, Amtoli and Banna thanas.

They said 22 people were injured in Chargachia village in sadar thana on Saturday.

B'baria town dwellers deprived of amenities

From Sk Md Shahidul Islam

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 28: The town dwellers are deprived of civic amenities due to lack of drainage, deplorable condition of roads, inadequate number of street lights, and severe traffic jam.

The authorities have failed to provide amenities to residents, although the population of the municipality area is increasing day by day, local people said.

At present, Brahmanbaria Poursabha covering an area of seven square miles has the population of about 1,25,000. The municipality was upgraded to A grade from B grade in 1994. But the facilities of A grade are not being provided to dwellers.

Absence of proper drainage, recreational facilities, deplorable condition of roads, inadequate street light, and severe traffic jams are the main problems, which have made the lives of poura dwellers miserable.

Most of the drains are filled with filth and garbage. These are not cleaned in proper time. In many areas there is no drain, causing much suffering to people. During the rainy season, Sarkarpura, Banikpara and North Moural areas go under knee-deep water.

Due to absence of proper maintenance, most of the roads in the municipality area remain in a deplorable condition. The condition of Palk Para Road, Medda Bazaar Road, Kasipara Road, and Sarkarpura Road is pitiable. Many cracks and holes have developed at many points of the roads.

Tufayel Azam Road (TA Road) remains also in bad shape. Most covers of drains and manholes are broken. Footpaths are occupied with makeshift shops, causing suffering to pedestrians.

Besides, violation of traffic rules has become a common feature. It creates a traffic jam in different points of the town. Super market area, Medda Bazaar Road, Palkpara tempo stand, Tan Bazaar Road, Mosque Road, Cinema Hall Road, TA Road, Station Road and Kalf Bari intersection are the worst affected areas.

According to Brahmanbaria municipality sources, there are 4,000 licensed rickshaws in the town. But an unofficial estimate says about 10,000 rickshaws are playing on the roads.

Bulbs of many light posts are broken or inoperative, much to the suffering of pedestrians. Most of the roads and residential areas plunge into darkness just after sunset.

There is a children park in the pourasabha area, but nobody takes care of it. The park has turned into a grazing field.

The residents of the pourasabha have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to provide amenities to them.

Ershad for provincial system of govt

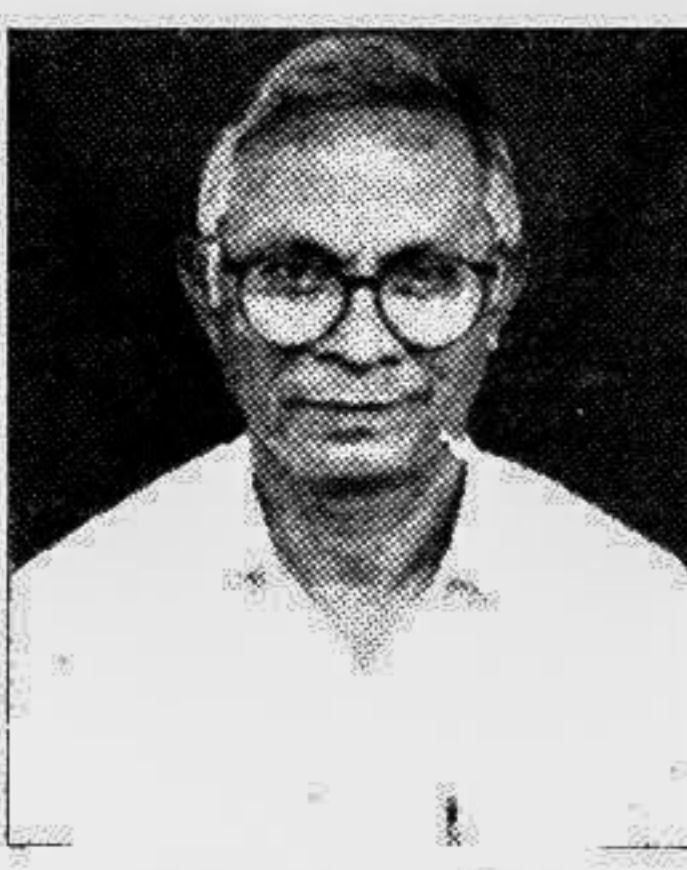
From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Nov 28: Jatiya Party chairman and former President H M Ershad said that if voted to power he would introduce the provincial system of government in order to bring administration to the doorsteps of common people.

He said this while addressing a public meeting at Nomani Maidan, Magura town recently.

It was presided over by Khanzula Huq, president of the district unit of JP. Advocate Hasan Seraj Suja, general secretary of the unit read out the welcome address. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Shah Md Abu Jafar, presidium member of JP, Golam Mohammad Kader MP, Mitay Roy Chowdhury and other local leaders.

Abdus Sattar new president of Pabna Press Club



Abdus Sattar Basu

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Nov 28: Abdus Sattar Basu was elected president of Pabna Press Club recently.

He won the by-election to the post of president, which fell vacant following the death of incumbent president Mirza Shamsul Islam.

Abdus Sattar Basu, a senior journalist, defeated his lone rival Shafur Rahman Khan, editor of local daily The Ichhamati.

Correction

The names of some persons were inadvertently mentioned in a story on 'Workshop for journalists' on Page 10 on Thursday as speakers. This happened due to misjoining of the story in the Pasting section. The error is regretted.

Events of districts in picture



A procession was brought out in Gopalganj town recently on the occasion of the 28th National Cooperative Day.

—Star photo



Artists of a cultural organisation in Rangpur redering 'Bhaway' songs recently at the three-day long Abbas Uddin fair in the district town.

—Star photo



A student of Government Yasin College in Faridpur donating blood at a blood donation campaign organised jointly recently by Faridpur Medical College and Faridpur Interact Club.

—Star photo

Environment workshop concludes

SATKHIRA, Nov 28: A three-day environment workshop, organised by the Centre for Sustainable Development concluded here at the Zila Parishad auditorium on Sunday, reports BSS.

Deputy commissioner Saiful Alam was present at the concluding function as the chief guest while the Country Representative of International Environment Preservation Union and member of Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission, eminent water and environment specialist Prof Alun Nishat was the special guest.

The function was also addressed, among others, by advocate Kabirul Islam, Mohsin Hossain, Momtaj Ahmed and Munira Akhtar.

Accommodation problem in Kushtia Jail

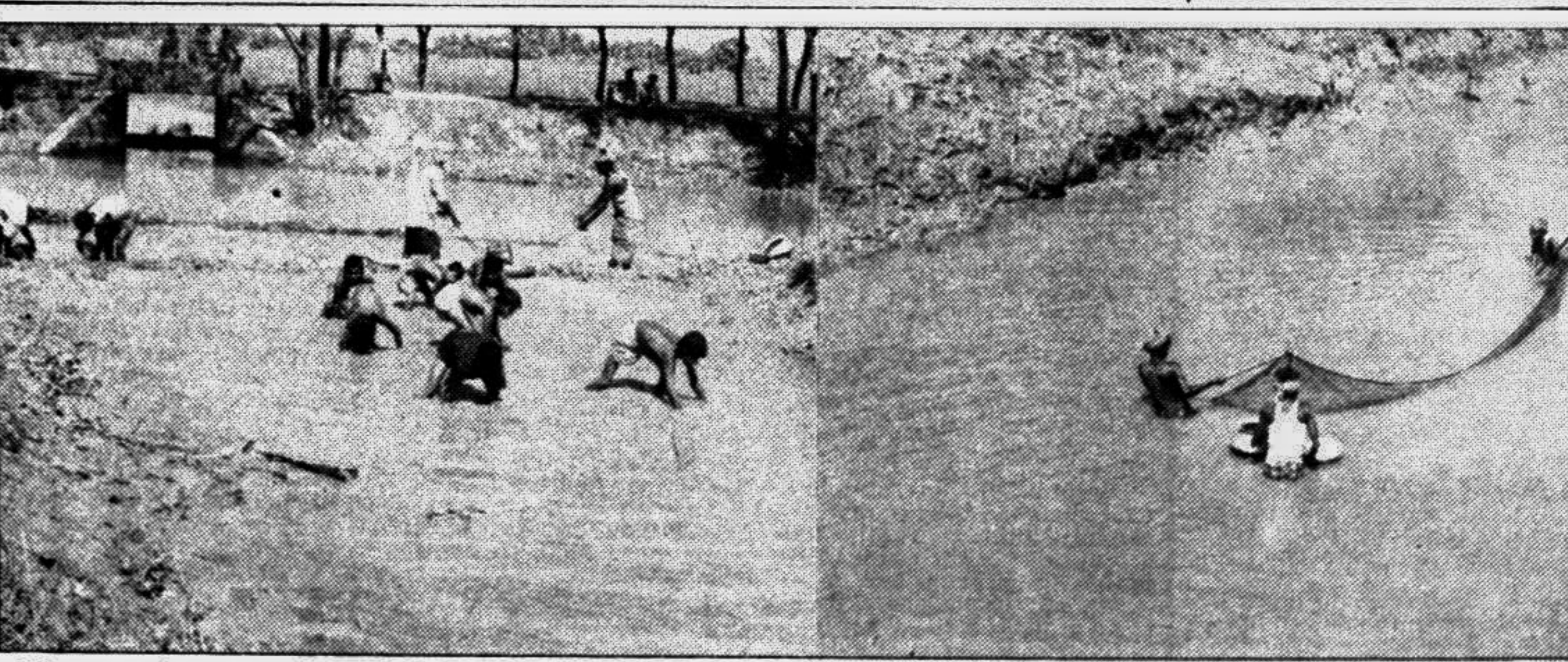
KUSHTIA, Nov 28: It was constructed during British period for 450 prisoners. Now over 3,000 prisoners are huddled together in the district jail for lack of accommodation, reports UNB.

Jail sources said there were only two hall-like wards in the prison for male prisoners where the jail inmates were living in an inhuman life, enduring mosquito bites.

Recently, police arrested a good number of people on various charges from different parts of the district.

In 1960, the prison was upgraded to a district jail without improving its living condition.

The sources said the jail cannot be renovated due to inadequate budgetary allocation. However, the jail authorities have shifted some of the prisoners to Jessore district jail to ease their sufferings.



Winter fishing: Some villagers in Jhenidah district enjoying the joy of fishing in this winter.

—Star photo