

News snaps

Digital phone in all dist hqs

NOAKHALI, Dec 26: Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim recently laid the foundation stone of a 6000-line digital telephone exchange here, saying all the district headquarters will be brought under this facility by the year 2001, reports BSS.

"The present government has already provided 24 districts with digital telephone facilities while the rest will come under the network by next two years," he said while speaking on the occasion. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu and Segupta Yesmin, MP, among others, spoke on the occasion while Khondoker Abdul Matin, Chairman of the Telephone and Telegraph Board chaired it. Mohammad Nasim said it is the objective of an elected government to fulfil the demand of the common people on priority basis. "Telephone is one of the priority sector of the government which was a status symbol for the rich during the past governments." He said the government has introduced the telephone policy and opened up a new era for private entrepreneurs to invest in this sector.

Dried-fish trader strangled

HABIGANJ, Dec 26: A dried-fish trader was strangled to death by unknown miscreants on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Madhabpur thana on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Family sources said the assailants killed Abdul Ali, 25, of Haripur village in Sadar thana and snatched Tk 50,000 from him. His body was recovered from near Syed Saiddudin College in Madhabpur thana the following day. A case was filed.

Man hurt in clash

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 26: A clash between two rival groups of people in Bandar thana left a man critically injured on Thursday, reports UNB.

The clash between the two groups of Dhalak Enterprise and Prompt Enterprise took place over a contract of Haripur Power Plant. The injured, identified as Dolar, was hospitalised. A case was filed.

Fake coconut factory unearthed

THAKURGAON, Dec 26: A fake coconut oil factory was unearthed in Halpara area of the town on Thursday, reports UNB.

On information, police raided the house of one person named Humayun and discovered the fake factory. Bhaizan Chemical Industries, along with some oil-making equipment. They later raided the house of Abdul Khaleque at Hajipara in the town and recovered two containers of phony coconut oil. A case was filed.

Relief distributed

THAKURGAON, Dec 26: An amount of Tk 2.07 lakh, provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, has been distributed among 24 organisations, reports UNB.

Local MP Ramesh Chandra Sen handed over cheques against the money among authorities of the organisations, including mosques, temples and schools, at the DC office on Wednesday.

Rabi farming programme

JHENIDAH, Dec 26: A massive programme has been taken up for cultivation of Rabi crops in six thanas in the current season, reports UNB.

Agriculture officials said some 1.41 hectares of land would be brought under cultivation of Rabi crops. Of the total, paddy will be cultivated on 63,230 hectares while wheat on 16,000 hectares, different kinds of lentil on 30,500 hectares, garlic, potato, mustard and vegetables on 31,100 hectares. Necessary loans and agri-inputs will be provided among the farmers to make the programme a success, the officials added.

Barguna Press Club poll

BARGUNA, Dec 26: Election to Barguna Press Club was held at the district Bar Association auditorium here on Friday, reports UNB.

Anwar Hossain Monowar and Golam Mostafa Quader have been elected as president and general secretary respectively. The other office-bearers elected unopposed are: Sanjib Das, Zakir Hossain Jewel, Rafiqul Islam Montu, Hafizur Rahman, Swapan Das and Abdul Mannan. Municipal Commissioner Adv Mohammad Shahjahan conducted the election.

Old age allowances distributed

DAMUDDA (Shariatpur), Dec 26: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak on Saturday said Old Age Allowance system was introduced first in Bangladesh among all the countries of the Sub-continent, reports BSS.

"Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt for better life of the distressed persons and his daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working hard for fulfilling the unfinished task of Bangabandhu," he said while distributing old age allowances and relief among poor people. Abdur Razzak distributed Taka 300 each to Tk 2,430 distressed old men and women of Damudda, Gosairhat, Vederaganj and Shakhipur thanas as Old Age Allowance for three months. The minister also donated a total of 252 goats among poor women of the four thanas for their self-employment.

Gazalia UP building opens

GALACHIPA (Patuakhali), Dec 26: State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir Hossain inaugurated the newly constructed Gazalia Union Parishad Bhaban on Saturday, reports BSS.

The seven-room bhaban was built by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at a cost of Taka 18 lakh. Speaking on the occasion, Jahangir said the present government has been implementing programmes for the development of rural infrastructure. He sought help from all concerned to implement other on-going programmes of the government for welfare of the common people. Chaired by Gazalia UP Chairman Gazi Mohammad Yusuf, the function was also addressed by Shahjahan Miah and Abdul Barak Ali, president and general secretary of Gazalia Thana Awami League respectively.

Cash, valuables looted

JHENIDAH, Dec 26: Road pirates looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 1 lakh from the passengers of a night coach on Friday night, leaving three injured, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of 6-7 robbers boarded the coach of Eagle Paribahan in the guise of passengers from Gabtoli terminal and took control of the coach at gunpoint when it reached Hatgopalpur 12 km off the town, at about 10 pm. They swooped on the passengers, looted their valuables and made off with the booty in BSIC estate area. Three of the passengers suffered stab injuries when they tried to resist the dacoits.

Discussion on AIDS Day

MADARIPUR, Dec 26: A discussion was held here at the Sadar Hospital premises on the occasion of World AIDS Day recently, reports BSS.

The discussion was presided over by Dr Rashidul Islam. It was addressed, among others, by Dr Altaf Hossain, Dr Abul Kalam Azad and Dr Akkas Ali. A colourful procession was also taken out to mark the day.

Training for pry teachers

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 26: A month-long training for the primary teachers organised by UNICEF has already been started here recently, reports BSS.

A total of 170 primary teachers in different primary schools participated in the training, official sources said. The participants will understand the modern teaching method through this training, official sources added.

Ex-Soldiers League formed

MANIKGANJ, Dec 21: The District Committee of Bangladesh Ex-Soldiers League, an organization based on the principles of Bangabandhu, has been formed here recently, reports BSS.

The organisations comprises of ex-members of Army, Navy, Airforce and BDR. An Executive Committee with ex-Subedar Khandker MA Mannan and ex-Leading Seaman Haji Abdul Aziz as President and Secretary respectively was formed.

Indian sarees seized

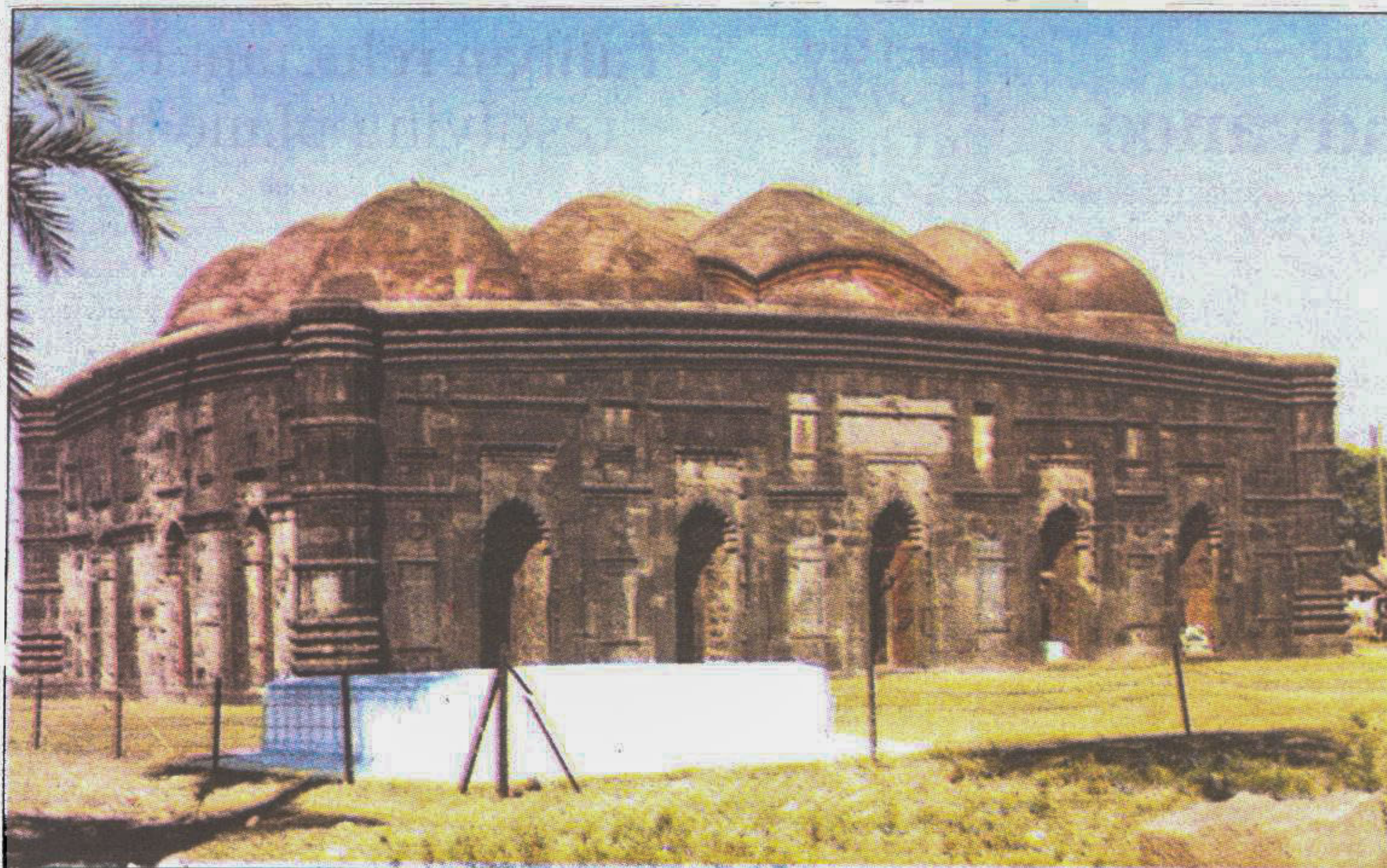
BENAPOLE, Dec 26: BDR jawans seized Indian sarees worth about Tk 10 lakh from Ghuba village in frontier Sharsha thana on Friday, reports UNB.

But the sarees were allegedly taken to the BDR headquarters in Jessore instead of depositing them with the Customs department, and an influential quarter was trying to get them back.

Attack on journalists condemned

BARISAL, Dec 26: SM Iqbal and Munir Hossain, President and Secretary respectively of Barisal Press Club in a joint statement criticised and expressed concern over the attack by fundamentalists on reporters who were engaged in news coverage at the meeting of four-party alliances in Chittagong, reports BSS.

They called upon the authority concerned to put the criminals involved in this misdeed to proper punishments after necessary investigations.



Historic Sona Masjid at Shibganj thana in Chapai Nawabganj district attracts hundreds of visitors from home and abroad every year. — Star photo by Gholam Mostafa

Feni people still remember Pak horror with awe

CHANDGAZI (Feni), Dec 26: The heroic resistance put up by the freedom fighters at Chandgazi Defence line against Pakistani occupation forces has left an indelible mark in the country's history of the War of Liberation in 1971.

From Chandgazi defence line the freedom fighters repulsed the enemy attacks and ultimately forcing them to retreat. Feni district was freed from the occupation forces six days ahead of the final surrender of the Pakistan army.

At the initial stage preparations for resisting the occupation forces were made under the leadership of Khawaja Ahmed, an Awami League member, of the then National Assembly.

Major Ziaur Rahman (former army chief turned President) and Major Khaled Mosharrar (who died on November 3 in a counter military coup) led the war in the region at Chandgazi defence line. Captain Oli Ahmed (former minister), Captain Jafar Imam (former minister), Lt Mahfuz (later hanged), Subadar Hanif, Faqur, Kabir and Mofiz were,

among those, who fought against the occupation forces during the War of Liberation from this place.

The historic Chandgazi defence line covered Darbarpur, Munshirhat, Nowapur, Joy Nagar and Sattya Nagar villages and east and west parts of Chhagalnaya and Parshuram thana (at present Upazila).

Pakistani occupation forces launched attack to destroy the defence line where the freedom fighters took shelter after the fall of Feni on April 17 and launched counter-attack.

The people of Feni started taking preparations for resisting the Pakistani occupation army when they heard the brutalities on innocent men, women and children on the "Black Night" of March 25, 1971 in Dhaka and the announcement of independence by father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On March 26 morning, military convoys consisting of 35-armed vehicles came from Comilla Cantonment towards port city Chittagong and stayed some time at Mizan road of

Feni town. Troops were deployed at the then Feni Circle Officer's (Development) office and near the Shuvapur Bridge to keep control in this area and protect the communication line.

In the first week of April 1971 Pakistan army entered Feni without facing any obstacle, but the invaders were forced to retreat toward Feni Sub-divisional headquarters as they faced resistance from Mukti Bahini at Chandgazi defence line. Before their retreat on June 16, Pakistani army with the help of local collaborators, lined up 22 people at Anandpur Union and sprayed bullets on them.

Those who were brutally killed among others included local Chairman Hossain Uddin Chowdhury, 85-year-old grand father of Amin Ahmed Chowdhury (Bir Bikram), Alhaj Baduzzaman Chowdhury, Alhaj Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Mombul Ahmed Chowdhury, Mombuljuddin Chowdhury and Deru Miyun.

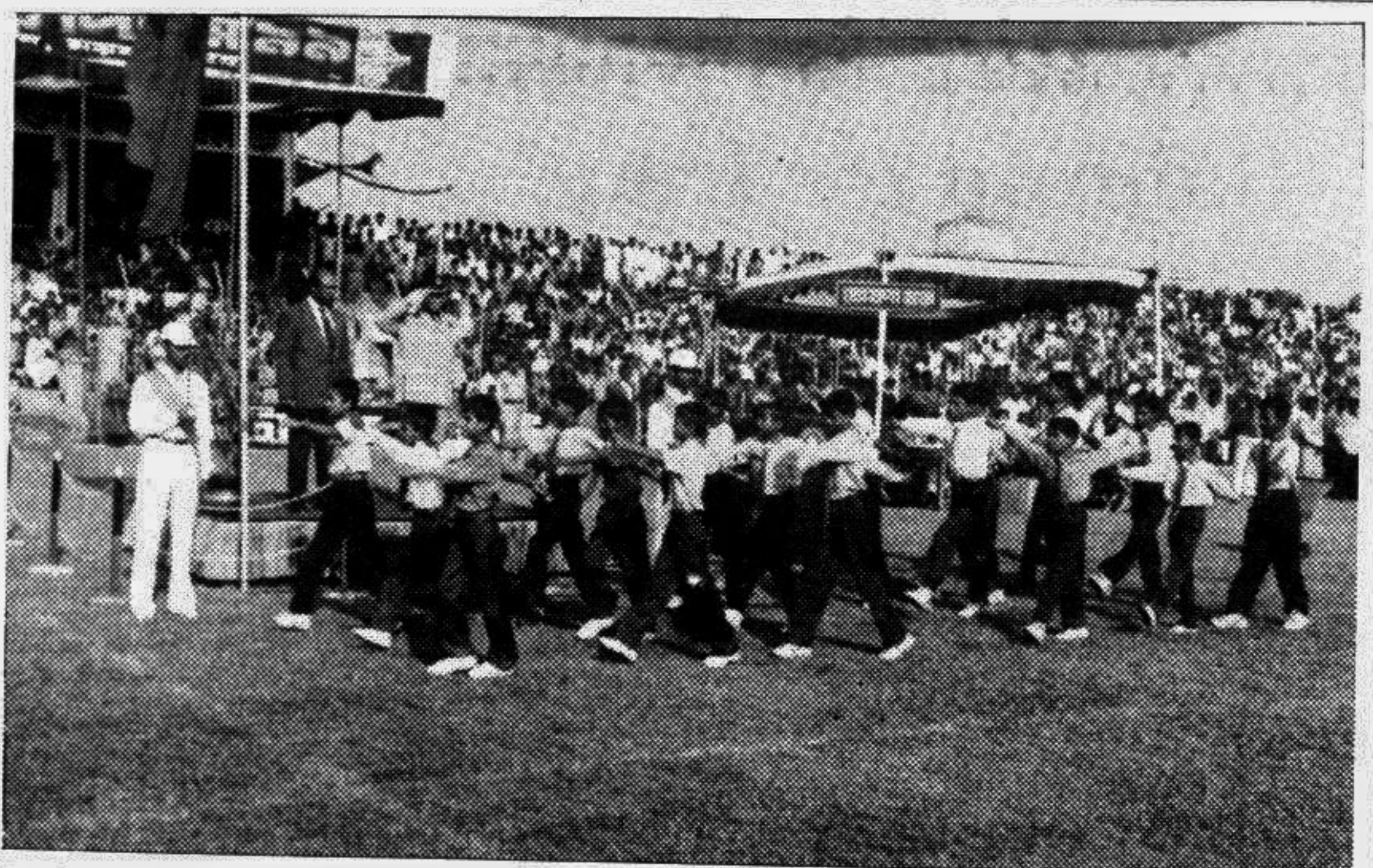
The barbarous Pakistani oc-

cupation forces dumped the bodies on a roadside ditch and no one was allowed to bury them. There is no preservation of that massgrave till today to keep the sign and pain of the martyrs alive.

They also attacked many villages including Hassanpur, Bandua and set fire on a number of houses. As a result many innocent people were homeless and valuables damaged. The destructive activities of the Pakistani army cannot be erased from the memory of the commoners of the area.

On June 17, the Pakistani army suddenly attacked the Chandgazi defence line, a massive air attack was launched to destroy the camp of the freedom fighters. The Naval force was also deployed to penetrate the defence line.

By deploying the Army, Air force and Naval force the Pakistani forces were able to break the Chandgazi defence line, but their success was short lived. The freedom fighters responded and consolidated their strength and finally uprooted the invaders. — BSS Feature



Students of different schools in Mymensingh town participated at the Victory Day march past at the local stadium. — Star photo

Lathikhela in Kushtia town

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Dec 26: Lathials, or traditional guards equipped with bamboo sticks, from different parts of the country performed lathikhela, or skillful maneuvering of bamboo sticks, in Kushtia recently.

Lathials gathered at Majampur in the town on the occasion of the 12th National Lathikhela Training Camp, which concluded on December 7 amidst much enthusiasm.

On the first day the lathials performed in about 50 places in the town. Later they also participated in a cultural function in the evening.

Nikhil Banga Lathial

Samity, an organisation for lathials in Bengal, was formed by late Serajul Huq Ostad Bhai in the year 1933. After the partition of India in 1947 the organisation was renamed East Pakistan Lathial Bahini and after the liberation it is now Bangladesh Lathial Bahini.

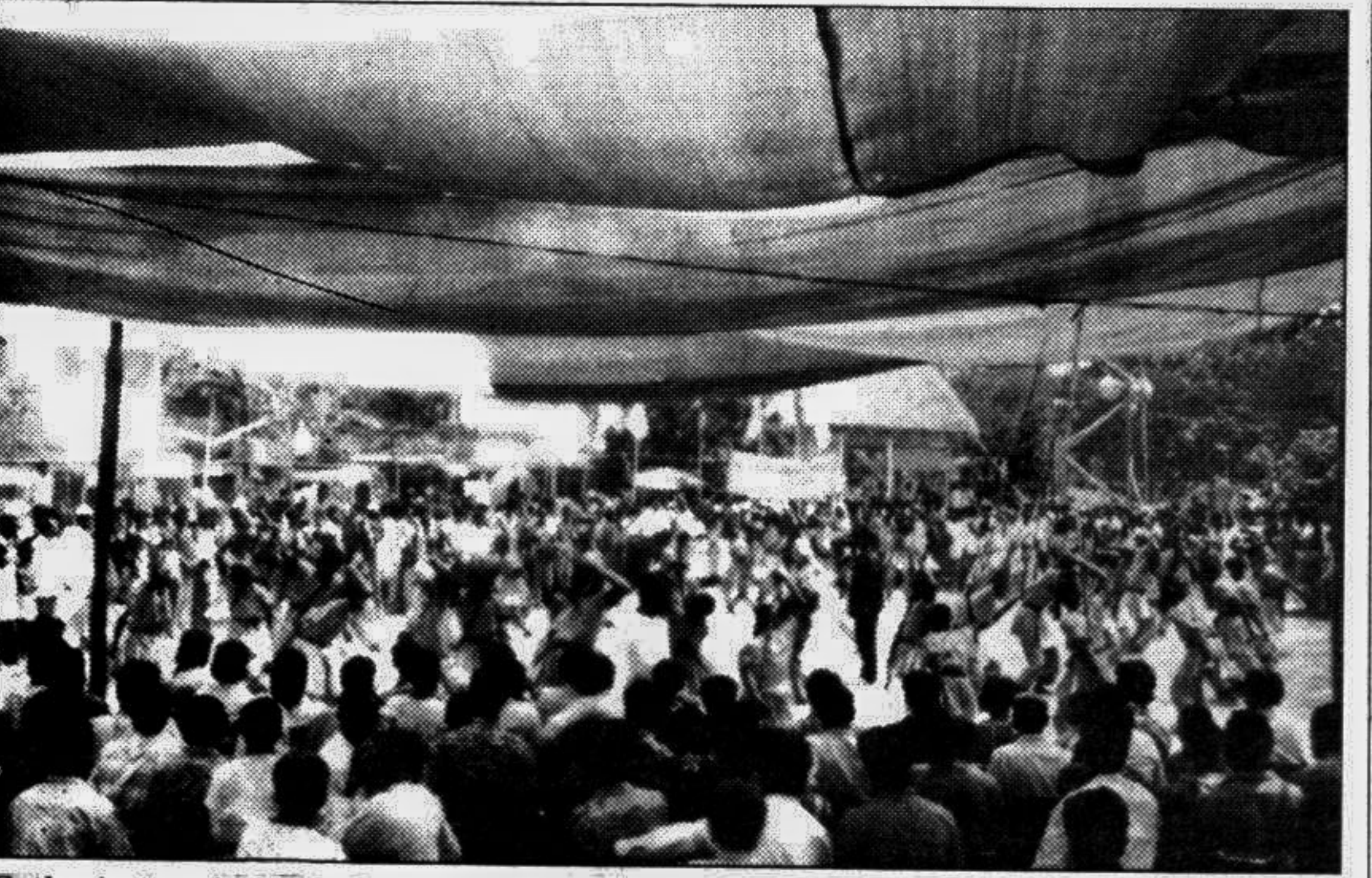
The organisation arranges programmes with its own resources. It does not receive any assistance from the government. Serajul Huq Ostad Bhai was the pioneer in organising such programme. After his death his son Monjurul Huq Choudhury alias Chakra Moni is playing important role in the organisation.

Lathials under the leadership of Monjurul Huq Choudhury displayed their performances in the 6th SAAF games at Dhaka Stadium.

Besides, they also performed at Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Indoor Stadium in Calcutta recently.

A colourful procession was also brought out on the occasion. The procession paraded the main thoroughfares in the town.

Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia, attended the concluding function, which enthralled a large number of people.



Enthusiasts enjoying lathikhela on December 7 in Kushtia town. — Star photo

Sajeda urges land owners Help implement Ashrayan project

MUNSHIGANJ, Dec 26: Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday called upon the landowners to come forward with cooperative attitude for successful implementation of the Ashrayan Project taken by the present government, reports BSS.

She said this while inaugurating the "South Rangamaliya Ashrayan Project" at Basail union under Sirajdikhan thana of the district as the chief guest.

A total of 101 persons from 20 families have been rehabilitated under this project and a six-day long was training given initially to them. Training will also be given on different income generating programmes. After completion of the training, credit facility would be provided on various programmes among the rehabilitated people.

The minister said the present government has been implementing different welfare oriented projects for the common people like old age pension, widow allowance, VGD,

and Ashrayan Project. The Ashrayan project of the government can be successfully implemented if owner of huge private property donates a piece of land for the rootless people," she said.

The minister said different income generation projects have been taken under the Youth Directorate to impart training to a large number of unemployed youths for employment.

She also urged the unemployed youths to play a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of the country by taking loan from the Employment Bank after having training.

Deputy commissioner of the district presided over the function while local parliament member Shagupta Yasmin attended it as the special guest. The function was addressed, among others, by district Awami League leaders and local elite.

Later, the minister handed over the documents of land among the rehabilitated families.

Arms recovered in Ctg: one held

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: Three firearms and ammunition were recovered and one person was arrested in the city last night.

Police recovered two USA made modern guns and 82 bullets in a raid at the house of Madu Sawdagar, an accomplice of terrorist Abdul Kader of Matubber building at Commerce College Road under Double Mooring thana last night.

Double Mooring police in a separate raid arrested terrorist Kamal Uddin, 25, with a loaded LG from behind American Hospital at Agrabad in the city last night.

Meanwhile, Detective Police recovered stolen cloths and other garment accessories of Tk. four lakh from a shop at Zohor Hawkers' Market under Kotwali thana early this morning.

By deploying the Army, Air force and Naval force the Pakistani forces were able to break the Chandgazi defence line, but their success was short lived. The freedom fighters responded and consolidated their strength and finally uprooted the invaders. — BSS Feature

Seminar on polio prevention

FARIDPUR, Dec 26: A seminar on success achieved in preventing polio disease, organised by local unit of Community Development Library (CDL), was held recently at the library auditorium, reports BSS.

Rezaul Karim, District Coordinator of Faridpur Chapter of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) presented the keynote paper on the subject.

He described the causes of the deadly disease polio and measures to be taken to prevent the disease.

Prof Md Shahjahan, Principal of Local Government Sarada Secondary Mahila College attended the seminar as the chief guest.

The chief guest mentioned the successes achieved through Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) and National Immunisation Day (NID).



Eshaque Bhuiya, Deputy Commissioner, Natore, speaking at the closing session of the In-service Training Programme on Disaster Management arranged at Singra Thana Parishad Hall for government and non-government officials. The training was conducted by DPIS project of PRIP Trust, Dhaka, under sponsorship of GOB Disaster Management Bureau. Jiban K Choudhury, TNO-Singra, and DPIS Coordinator, ARM Saidul Huq, are seated by his side.

Training on disaster management held in Natore

Disaster Preparedness Information Service, a project of PRIP Trust, a national NGO, arranged a four-day training programme on Disaster Preparedness and Response at Singra, Natore, from November 29 to December 2, says a press release.

Organised under the sponsorship of GOB Disaster Management Bureau the training targeted both thana-level officials and NGO representatives in the area.

The training included such areas of disaster management as concept of natural disaster, full spectrum of disaster management, contingency planning with reference to disaster, hazards analysis and capacity assessment, disaster vis-a-vis gender and community participation health care during emergency, GOB standing orders on disaster, Floods and river-bank erosion, were also covered during the four-day programme.

The course was facilitated by Hamiduzzaman K Choudhury-DMB Specialist, Mosabber Hossain, ADAB Chapter Coordinator, Rabul Azam, Director-MKP Thakurgaon, Dr Raziqul Ahsan, Thana Health and Family Planning Officer-Singra, apart from DPIS trainers.

The programme was inaugurated and certificates distributed on the closing day by Eshaque Bhuiya, Deputy Commissioner, Natore, Jiban K Choudhury, TNO-Singra, presided over the opening and closing ceremonies.

3 held: Firearm, phensidyl recovered

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: Three people were arrested with a firearm and 158 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup in separate drives in the city.

Police on Wednesday arrested terrorist Shahed Ali, 30, and recovered a local made gun and 54 rounds of bullets from his possession from Pathantuli Bangshalpara area in the morning.

Police, acting on a tip-off, raided the area when Shahed and his accomplices were preparing for mugging. However, accomplices of Shahed managed to flee.

Police on Thursday arrested a baby-taxi passenger and recovered 104 bottles of phensidyl from his possession from in front of Shewlee Petrol Station at Baluchara under Panchlaish police station.

The arrested was identified as Md Saidul Haq, 20, of Langol Court under Comilla district.

In another drive, police arrested a woman and recovered 54 bottles of phensidyl from her possession at Boddahat Bus Station on Thursday. The woman was identified as Rokeya Begum, 30, of Cox's Bazar district.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

WANTED

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladeshi nationals for the following posts:

Sl No	Name of posts	Number of posts	Qualifications	Scale of pay
1	Secretary	1 (One)	Master's degree preferably in Economics/Commerce/ Business Administration/Public Administration from any other recognised university in Bangladesh or abroad with adequate administrative experience preferably in an educational or research organisation. The age of the candidate should not exceed 50 years. The candidate should have at least 15 years work experience with proven administrative ability.	NPS '97 Tk. 9500-260-12100/- plus other allowances as admissible under the rules.
2	Librarian	2 (Two)	Foreign Master's degree in Librarianship with Social Science background with 6 years experience as a Senior Assistant Librarian in a library, or MA in Librarianship of any recognised university and at least 9 years experience in a library. The age of the candidate should not exceed 40 years.	NPS '97 Tk. 7200-260-10840/- plus other allowances as admissible under the rules.

Application with complete bio-data giving details of division/class obtained and year of passing from SSC onwards along with two passport size photographs and attested copies of marksheet and academic certificates and other experience certificates addressed to the Acting Secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 should reach by 31st January, 2000 at the latest. Candidate already in service should apply through proper channel.

The authority reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason.

Acting Secretary
BIDS.

GD-1238