

News snaps

Army distributes winter clothes

BANDARBAN, Jan 5: Bandarban Army Regional Headquarters has been distributing warm clothes including blankets among the poor tribal and non-tribal families in seven thanas of Bandarban hill districts since last week, reports BSS.

According to official sources, warm clothes and blankets worth about Taka two lakh have been distributed in the seven thanas including Bandarban Municipality area. Bandarban Sadar Zone has also distributed about Taka 30,000 valuable saarees and lungies and some cash among the poor women and men in Bandarban Sadar and Raungchhari thanas on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Tk 1.64cr ADP project progressing

BAGERHAT, Jan 5: Work on 104 projects under Annual Development Programme (ADP) is progressing fast in the district at a cost of Tk 1.64 crore, reports UNB.

The projects include carpeting of 13-km road, repair and reconstruction of 47 wooden bridges and renovation of 18 mosques and madrasas. Besides, work on 442 projects under rural infrastructure maintenance programme is going on in full swing. The Ministry of Relief allocated 774 metric tons of wheat to implement the projects to be completed by this month.

Harvesting completed

BAGERHAT, Jan 5: Farmers have completed the harvesting of High Yielding Variety (HYV) of Aman paddy cultivated on 27,735 hectares land in nine thanas here during the current season, reports UNB.

Production target of HYV Aman paddy has been fixed at 2.72 metric tons per hectare. Growers also finished the harvesting of local variety Aman on 79,988 hectares with a production target of 1.53 metric tons per hectare. It is expected that rest of the paddy will be harvested within next 15 days.

Boro output target fixed

COMILLA, Jan 5: The production target for 1.06 lakh hectares of land in 12 thanas in upcoming Boro season has been fixed at 3.07 lakh metric tons, officials said, reports UNB.

Thana-wise lands and production targets are: Sadar-land 13,000 hectares, production 37,700 MT; Chandina-6,000 hectares, 17,400 MT; Devidwar-7,000 hectares, 20,300 MT; Muradnagar-9,010 hectares, 26,129 MT; Daudkandi-14,100 hectares, 40,600 MT; Homna-4,080 hectares, 11,600 MT; Burichang-7,500 hectares, 21,750 MT; Brahmanpara-7,005 hectares, 20,300 MT; Choddyagram-9,500 hectares, 27,550 MT; Laksam-15,035 hectares, 43,500 MT; Langalcourt-7,120 hectares, 25,590 MT and Barura-6,900 hectares and production 20,010 MT.

Grant disbursed

RANGAMATI, Jan 5: Chairman of the Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) Ching Kew Roza has disbursed a grant of Taka 15,16,700 for the development of different institutions at a function held at his office here on Monday, reports BSS.

Heads of two colleges, four junior high schools, one primary school and 20 religious institutions of different religions received the cheques. Councillors of RHDC, Shushanta Chakma and Sunil Kumar Tanchangya and RHDC officials were present on the occasion.

BCL anniversary marred

DIRAJPUR, Jan 5: Celebration of the 52nd anniversary of the birth of BCL was marred at Nazirpur on Monday by intra-party clash in which at least half a dozen people were injured, reports UNB.

A discussion meeting was melted down, photograph of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman pulled down and the venue ransacked by a BCL rival group headed by Towhid and Biplob, witnesses said. Thana BCL president Khokan Kazi, secretary Farooq and organising secretary Chanchal were seriously wounded in the attack with lethal weapons. Admitting the incident the thana Awami League president said those created tension were new entrants in BCL.

Wheat for uplift projects

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 5: Government has sanctioned one thousand two hundred twenty tons of wheat for implementing some development projects in five thanas of Chapainawabganj district, reports BSS.

The wheat has been allotted under Special Test Relief Programme for the current fiscal year. Under the programme, derelict ponds and local canals will be re-excavated, rural roads and embankments will be constructed and reconstructed and development of educational institutions including mosques and temples will be done. Thana-wise breakup of the allotted wheat is: Chapainawabganj Sadar-334 tons, Shibganj 11,506 tons, Gamastapur thana-164 tons, Nachol thana-125 tons and Holahat thana-91 tons.

Orientation course

BARISAL, Jan 5: A day-long orientation course on Reproductive Health and Gender Issues was held here at the Wazipur thana auditorium premises on Saturday, reports BSS.

Organised by the Barisal Divisional Information Department the course was inaugurated by M Alauddin, Deputy Commissioner, as the chief guest. The inaugural function was presided over by Abul Hossain, TNO, Wazipur. A total of 57 teachers and health organisers took part in the orientation course. The chief guest gave away prizes and certificates among the participants at the end of the course.

Stipend for tribal students

RANGAMATI, Jan 5: Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) plans to award stipend of Taka seven lakh to 300 students reading at different educational institutions at home and abroad with various disciplines, reports BSS.

The stipend will be awarded, in the current fiscal, as a part of its ongoing programme to promote education. Meanwhile, RHDC authority advised the students studying at different levels including higher secondary, graduation, post-graduation, and in medical, engineering and agriculture colleges and universities to apply in the prescribed form available at its office from January 5 to February 18 next, officials said.

Invigilator assaulted

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 5: An invigilator was assaulted by a degree examinee at the Government Harganga College centre here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Shamsul Alam Jibon, former VP of the college, allegedly roughed up invigilator Oluliah Muhammad Ajmotgir, lecturer Chemistry Department, as the teacher prevented him from changing his seat during the examination of Islamic Studies. A GD was filed with the local police in this connection.

Cold wave claims 5 lives in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 5: Severe cold wave has paralysed normal life in Kushtia district and its adjoining areas.

The cold wave has been sweeping over here for the last few days. Poor people are the worst sufferers as most of them have no warm clothes. Prices of warm clothes are beyond their purchasing capacity. Rickshaws-pullers and push-cart drivers are seldom seen on the roads before 11am and after 6pm. Shopowners are compelled to down their shutters after the sundown.

In rural areas people are seen sitting around fire places to protect themselves from the biting cold. Patients of the local hospital are also suffering a lot as many of them have to spend their nights on the floor for want of adequate number of beds. The authorities of the hospital can not provide the

patients with adequate rags. This situation has been aggravating their sufferings. They can not cope with the rush of patients as the 100-bed hospital is to accommodate more than 200 patients daily. People belonging to the middle class are seen visiting old clothes' shops, but due to high prices many of them are coming back without purchasing any clothes.

A large number of beggars are seen coming from different parts of the district and are begging for warm clothes for them and their children.

Sufferings of those who have been rendered homeless by erosion by the River Padma and taken shelter on Raita-Mohiskundi flood control embankment in Daulatpur thana know no bounds. They are passing their days in makeshift structures. Most of their chil-

ren are suffering from cold-related diseases. Five children have so far died of cold-related diseases in the area.

BSS from Lalmonirhat says: Cold wave has hampered normal life of the common people here.

The sun was not seen before 10 am due to fog. Day labourers and poor people could not come out of their shelter. They need warm clothes immediately.

UNB from Rangamati says: A severe cold spell is sweeping in the hilly countryside inflicting sufferings of the poor people.

The people who live in remote Bilaichhari, Barkal, Rasthali and Baghaichhari areas can hardly see the sun until 10 am due to thick fog.

They urged the authorities concerned to provide them warm clothes.



Golden paddy: Jhenidah farmers have achieved good production of Aman paddy this year despite heavy rains. Photo shows a delighted farmer harvesting the crop at village Roshimpur in Kaliganj. — Star photo

Only 37 pc use sanitary latrines in 16 dists

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 5: Only 37 per cent people have access to sanitary latrines in the 16 districts under Rajshahi division, Unicef source here said.

However, the number of sanitary latrines increased in the early 1990s when the latrine equipment was supplied to people at most free of cost under the initiatives of Unicef.

Meanwhile, Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) has set up 261 centres across the division to motivate people for using sanitary latrines. The centres also sell equipment to the people.

Several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have also set up 71 sanitation centres in the region.

Poverty and ignorance are

the main reasons behind the small number of sanitary latrines, NGO workers said. Most people cannot afford to buy equipment a sanitary latrine, they added.

DPHE sanitary latrines cost between Taka 2,000 and Taka 5,000.

An NGO worker said ignorance is also an obstacle to popularising the sanitary latrines. "I have seen many people who have the ability to install sanitary latrines but they are reluctant to install simply because they are not conscious", he added.

The rest 63 per cent people defecate in unhygienic traditional latrines and open fields, causing health hazard.

He wants to join circus

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Jan 5: He can climb tree in upside down position, placing his legs upside and head down, he can smoke a stick of cigarette in 30 seconds.

Eight-year-old Sariful Islam, son of rickshaw puller Alam of village Chatura under Shailakupa thana, also performs acrobatics.

During climbing Sariful also displays 'natural' acrobatics. He smokes a stick of cigarette in 30 seconds without emitting smoke. He only emits smokes after the stick is burnt completely.

Now Sariful performs at any place when neighbours request him for Tk five or Tk ten.

Sariful wants to join a circus to perform better. But has not found any opportunity so far to join a circus troupe.



Mazar Sharif of Garib Shah. —Star photo

Legend of Garib Shah

From Hossain Seraj

MAGURA, Jan 5: Legend goes here that once Tomas Tuidy of British Indigo Farm in Hazrapur area, met Hazrat Garib Shah wearing torn clothes while crossing the River Hanu.

A notoriously feared Tuidy gave Garib Shah some coins considering him a beggar. But Garib threw the coins into the river. Tuidy became very much angry and told him to return the coins. Garib told Tuidy to open his grip and at once the grip of Tuidy was filled with coins. Being astonished Tuidy begged pardon and became his follower.

Famous saint Hazrat Garib Shah was the son of Shah Kitabuddin, resident of village Nohata under Sreepur thana of Magura district. But his Mausoleum is situated at least in three districts of the country. The places are Nohata of Magura, Bokultala of Jessore and Barojhuri area in Faridpur district. Legend goes that Garib Shah was laid to rest in seven different places at a time.

But the mazar of Garib Shah Dewan at Nohata village is not properly maintained. As a result, historic records of his deeds through divine power are

not preserved now-a-days. Many God fearing people of different religious faiths assemble at Garib Shah's mazar to get rid of mundane complexities.

Garib was the disciple of Khan Zahan Ali, the famous religious personality and leader of this sub-continent. As Khan Zahan Ali died in 1459, it is supposed that Garib was a man of mid-15th century. Garib got married at the age of six months only. But after his marriage his wife died. From then, his family life ended and he adopted the holy life.

Elderly people of the area said, Kitabuddin sent his son Garib to Munshi Gonjer Ali, a teacher of a local madrasa. He did not know the spiritual power of the future hermit. Gonjer Ali came to see that his disciple Garib walked over the River Hanu adjacent to the village. Observing this miracle Gonjer Ali himself became a follower of his disciple. Many miraculous stories about the spiritual power of Garib have been prevailing in the south-western part of the country.

Legend goes that tigers of jungle used to salute him on every Thursday and Sunday of the week.

Devoted Muslims of the area say many distressed people got well from their sufferings with the blessings of great saint Garib Shah.

Foyezuddin was a Zamindar of Belgachi area in Faridpur district came to Garib Shah after being accused in a murder case. To get rid of this case, he stepped down to the River Hanu and tried to touch the legs of Garib Shah Dewan where he was taking bath. But he failed repeatedly. Through his spiritual power, Garib was able to know the wish of Foyez. He tried to avoid him and to make him frightened, Garib took the shape of crocodile, tiger and snake. Even then Foyez did not leave the spot. At this Garib became kind and said "Allah will save you." Later on he was saved from the case. It is learnt.

It is worth mentioning here, a surprising incident happened on the day of his burial. A pomegranate tree sprouted adjacent to his *Rawza Mubarak* of Nohata which is still green.

Every year on 2nd Kartik of Bengali year, his Urs Mubarak is held by his followers where thousands of people assemble with religious fervour.

Bank robbery bid foiled in Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Jan 5: A bank robbery attempt was foiled at Chandgazi Bazaar under Chhaghainalya thana on Sunday night.

According to local people, a group of robbers numbering about 30 surrounded the Chandgazi Bazaar branch of Sonali Bank and tied the night guard of the branch up. But the night guard of the adjacent Chandgazi High School witnessed the movements of the robbers and raised a hue and cry through the loud speaker of the school, urging locals to resist the robbery.

A large number of people rushed to the spot, but the robbers managed to flee the scene by hurling bombs at the advancing crowd. Four people were injured in the blast.

Another report adds: Two robberies were committed in the district on Sunday.

In the first incident, robbers decamped with Tk 50 thousand, gold ornament and valuables from the house of Aminur Rahman Majumder of Kismot Qania village under Fulgazi thana.

In the second incident, robbers raided the house of Iman Ali Muhri of village Voyag under Sonagazi thana.

According to villagers, a group of robbers numbering about 20 stormed the house and looted cash, gold ornament and other valuables.

Body of woman recovered in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jan 5: Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from an open field at village Abalpur in the town on Sunday.

Police suspected the woman, aged about 32 years, was raped and killed.

The body was sent to hospital for autopsy. A UD case was lodged in this connection.

BNP-JP clash in Magura: 20 injured

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jan 5: At least 20 people were injured, three of them seriously, in a clash between the activists of BNP and Jatiya Party in the town here afternoon, reports UNB.

Of the injured BNP activists, Liton and Bablu and JP activist Azam were admitted to Sadar Hospital. Their condition was stated to be critical.

Witnesses and hospital sources said the trouble began as supporters of the parties erased pictures of Ziaur Rahman and H M Ershad from the wall of the local bus stand.

Both sides used lethal weapons. Police arrested 8 people from the spot.

Tense situation was prevailing in the area. Additional police were deployed to avert further trouble.

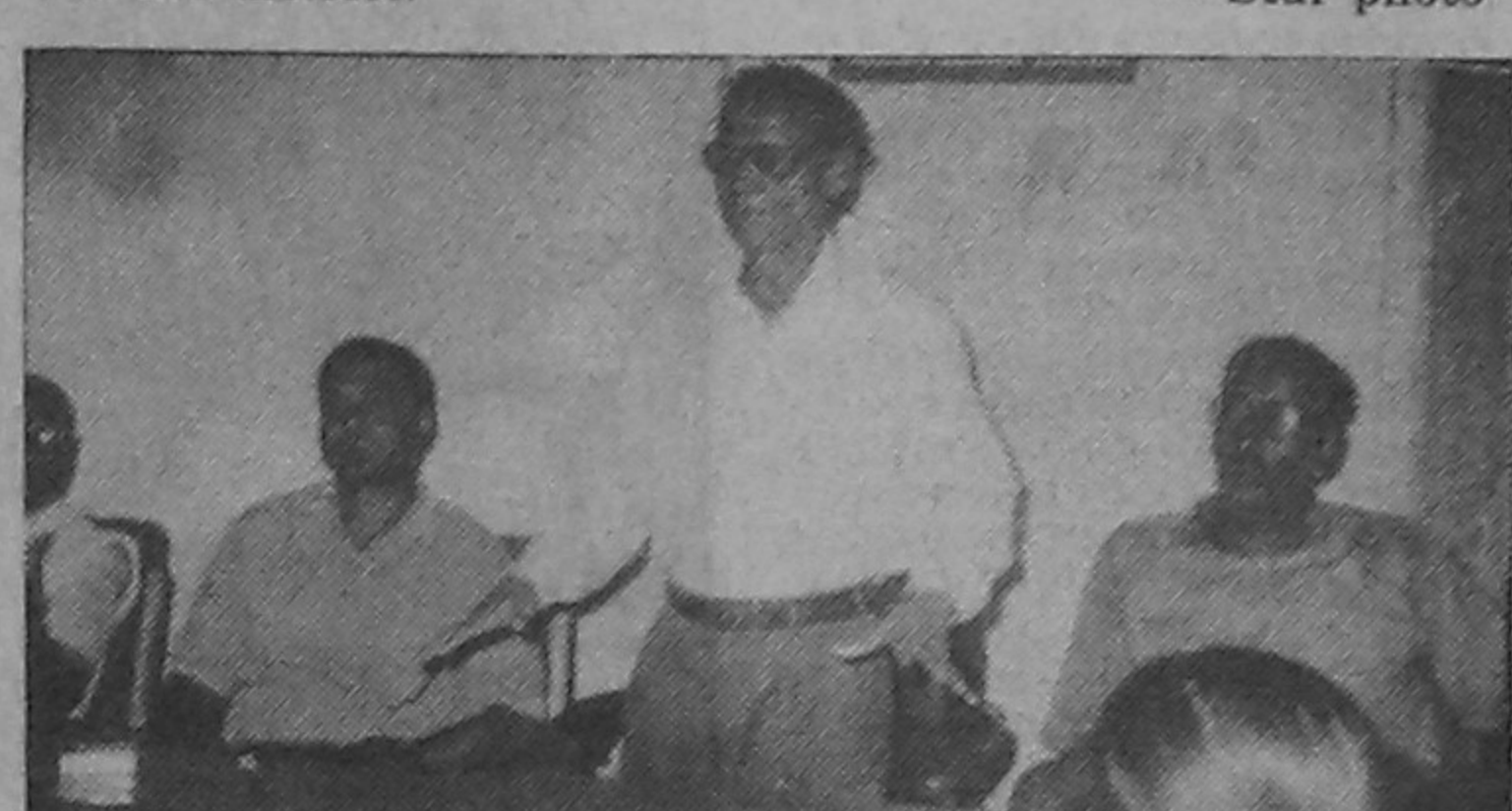
Events of districts in picture



Santa Claus amid Bangladeshi and foreign children on the occasion of Merry Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ, at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong. —Star photo



Veteran freedom fighter and former Principal staff Officer to ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Maj Gen (Retd) SA Bhuiyan addressing recently a workers' meeting at Gouripur High School ground in Daudkandi thana of Comilla district. — Star photo



Nur Taj Ali, Deputy Director of Social Service, Jhenidah delivering lecture while distributing interest-free loan recently among 50 distressed women of Bogra union in Jhenidah district. Golam Mortaza, TNO of Salkhan is also seen. — Star photo



Artists rendering patriotic songs at a cultural function, arranged on the occasion of the inauguration of Chandpur Auditorium by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently. —Star photo

Notice for Extension of Time

Due to some unavoidable circumstances Tender Enquiry No. Pur-187/12/99 Dt. 18.11.99 is hereby re-fixed as below.

Date of receiving & opening: 24.01.2000
Receiving time: 11:00 AM.
Opening time: 11:15 AM.
All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Project Director
18-Town Power Distribution Project
PDB, Dhaka.
Bidyut/Jana-1097(4)/99-2000
GD-24

Invitation for Tender

Sub: Extension of time for Bid submission for Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project, Phase-III, for construction of approximately 53KM 132KV Transmission Line.

The date of submission of Technical and Financial Proposals for Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project Phase-III, for construction of approximately 53KM 132KV Transmission Line has been re-fixed on 7-2-2000 up to 11:00 AM local time instead of 26-1-2000. The tender will be opened at 11:30 AM on the same day.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Biddut/Jana-1096(4)/99-2000
GD-26

Director of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka.

Bangladesh Power Development Board

Invitation for Offer of Consultancy Services in Joint Venture for Baghabari 100 MW Gas Turbine Power Plant Project

Bangladesh Power Development Board received tender from eligible tenderers for complete design, manufacturing, inspection, testing, supply delivery to the site, construction, erection, testing & commissioning on turnkey basis of 100±10% MW Gas Turbine Power Plant Project within the existing Baghabari Power Station premises which is under evaluation. BPDB has decided to invite tender for consultancy service for the abovementioned project for carrying out the checking and approval of construction drawings and supervision of works during implementation stage including commissioning, testing etc. for the above power plant project upto handing over of the power plant.

The Consulting firms should be internationally reputed and have joint venture/association with local consulting engineering firms of Bangladesh. The firms both foreign and local should be associated together to form a single proposal in undertaking this assignment are requested to submit their proposal for the services required under the Terms and Reference (TOR). No foreign or local firm should form association with more than one group.

The intending bidders may purchase the documents from the Director, Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building, Dhaka, Bangladesh on payment of Tk. 5,000 (five thousand) only in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of the Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.

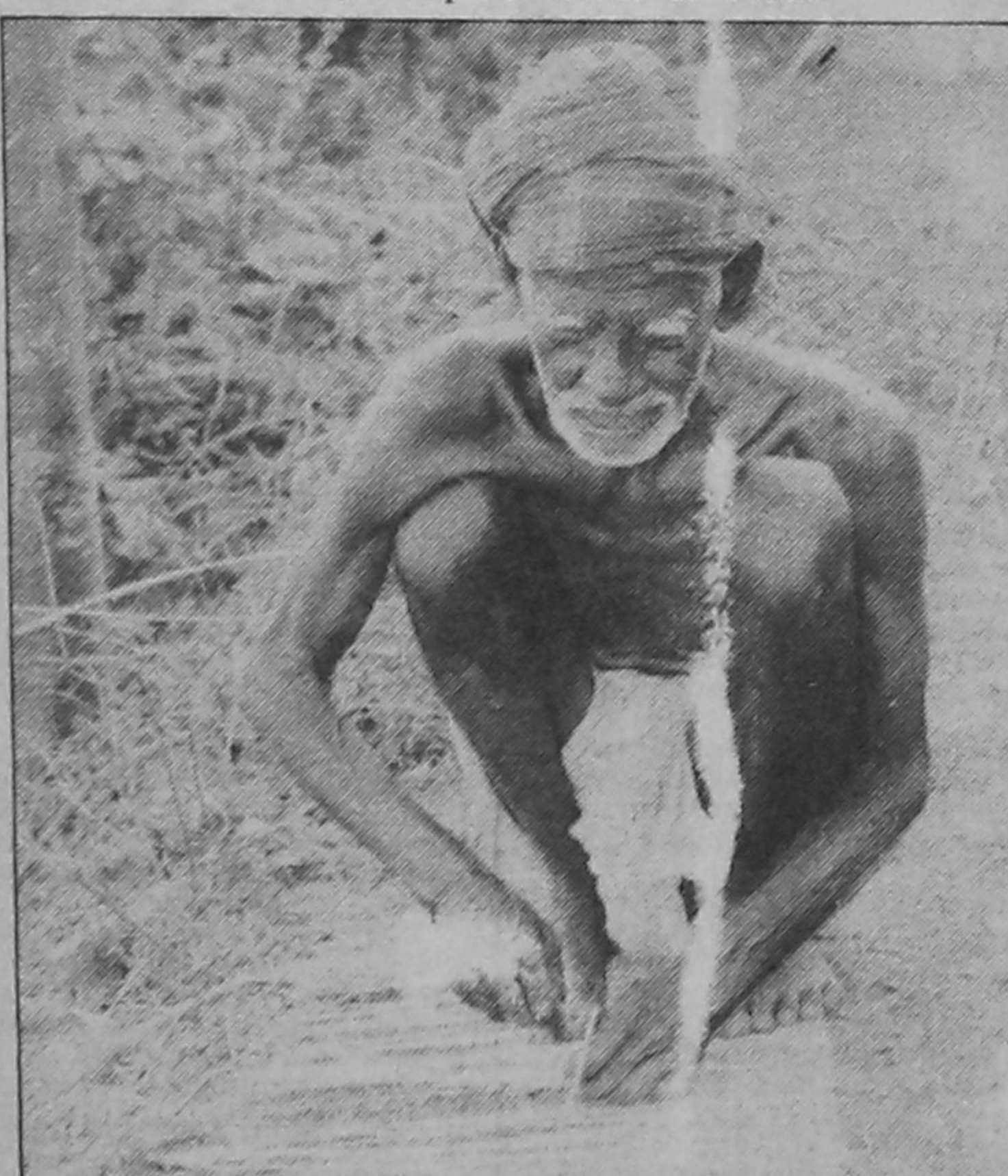
The cost of the consultancy services will be borne by Government of Bangladesh.

The proposal shall be submitted in two envelope system, one for technical proposal and other for financial proposal. The proposals shall be submitted on or before 12.00 Noon February 17, 2000 to the Secretary, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (1st floor), Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. The technical proposals will be opened at 12.30 hours on the same day in presence of the representatives of the bidders, if any.

BPDB would welcome any further query which the bidder may have concerning the project but any delay by BPDB in providing such additional information will not be considered as a reason for extending the submission date. The queries shall be addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bldg., Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka with a copy to the Chief Engineer Power Station Construction, Power Development Board, 1 No. Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.

Md. Seraj ud Dullah
Secretary
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Biddut/Jana-1081(5)/99-2000
GD-25



This is Nabokumar Roy. He is 75-year-old and an inhabitant of village Araishat in Magura district. Though he has none to look after, yet he does not pursue begging to earn his living. Usually he makes traps for fishing fries. Photo shows he is fully engrossed in his work. —Star photo