

# Dissidents form separate body of CU BCL unit

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY, Feb 11: Factional conflicts in the Chittagong University unit of ruling Awami League-backed BCL (Bangladesh Chhatra League) surfaced on Tuesday as rivals formed a separate committee, rejecting the new committee, which was formed on Monday in presence of central leaders, including vice president Kazi Abadat Hossain.

Dissidents led by Shaiful Islam in a meeting at Shah Amanat Hall formed the separate committee. Shaiful Islam and Mohammad Youss were made President and General Secretary respectively of the rival committee.

The other members of the committee were Krishna Gopal Pal, Vice-President, Moyazzem Hossain Kaiser, Joint Secretary, Akhter Hossain Jaded, Organising Secretary and Zahid Akhter, Publicity Secretary.

On the other hand, in the 41-member executive committee for next one year formed earlier in presence of central leaders Zillur Rahman Jewel and Nasir Haider Babul were made President and General Secretary respectively.

The other members of the committee were Ali Murtaza Chowdhury, Belal Ahmed Nuri and Nazimuddin Shimul, Vice-Presidents, Rezaul Hasan Nagen and Kaisaruzzaman Azad, Joint Secretaries, Shahidul Islam Bahar, Organising Secretary and Shahadat Fossain, Publicity Secretary.

When asked about the committee formed by the dissidents Simanta Talukder, a central leader of the student organisation, told this correspondent the central committee will not approve it. "We will also take action against the rival group," Talukder added.

# Flood protection dam work progressing

SYLHET, Feb 11: Work on the construction of 46 km Suraiya-Bibiana flood protection embankment is progressing in Sunanganj district at cost of Tk 5 crore, reports UNB.

Officials of the Water Development Board said the second phase of the work on the project started on February 4. Five km of the embankment from Kasba was completed in the first phase last year at a cost of Tk 52 lakh.

Work on another 6.5 km will be completed this year at cost of Tk 62 lakh. Of this, 2.4 km is under Food for Work Programme and 4.1 km on cash.

It is expected that on completion of the project, crops on 25 thousand bighas between the Bibiana and Kushiara rivers will be protected from flood benefiting the people of Jagannathpur and Dirai thanas.

It is estimated that production of paddy will be increased by 4,000 metric tons annually on completion of the project.

Officials said according to the earlier schedule, the project was to be completed in 1996-97. But it was taken up in 1998-99 to complete by 2001.

During the current financial year 12 km canal will be excavated and four regulators set up for controlling the water flow in the project area. Irrigation facilities will be extended to the project areas by regulators.

Besides, Markum-Ramgani Bazaar road on the west bank of Kushiara will be linked with Ahsanul-Rangganj-Bazar-Jagannathpur-Sunanganj road through the 14-meter broad embankment providing for good communication.

# Warm clothes distributed among poor people

The Bangladesh Government and another organisation distributed warm clothes recently among the distressed and helpless people of Chapai Nawabganj, Naogaon and Moulvi Bazar district, report agencies.

The government distributed a huge quantity of winter clothes among poor people of Chapai Nawabganj district this year.

Official sources said some 1,320 blankets, 3,000 meters of clothes, 20 cartons of old clothes, 28 cartons of various garments were distributed in five thanas and three municipalities.

The government has allotted some blankets for the cold stricken people of Mohadevpur thana in Naogaon district when the winter is almost over.

The local TNO told that the blankets allotted in the first phase have already been distributed among the distressed people in 10 unions of the thana. "I personally distributed some blankets to the distressed."

The blankets allotted in the second phase are under process of distribution, he added.

Local people alleged that only two blankets were given to each ward in the first phase. That too was not distributed to the deserving poor.

Moulvi Bazar district unit of Greater Sylhet Development Council has distributed warm clothes among the distressed and helpless people recently.

A meeting, presided over by Syed Mohsin Ali, President of Moulvi Bazar district unit of the Greater Sylhet Development Council, was held at Moulvi Bazar Municipal Auditorium to distribute warm clothes.

The meeting was attended by G K M Nurul Ameen, Deputy Commissioner of Moulvi Bazar as the chief guest.

Among others, Chairman of Moulvi Bazar Municipality Mahmudur Rahman, Prof A K Faizul Haque and Prof Mahmuda Kabir spoke in the meeting.

The council distributed 225 pieces of warm clothes among poor people.

**Jainal murder case:**

**Noor-e-Alam appears before court**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 11: Infamous Ershad Shikder's former bodyguard Noor-e-Alam was allowed to appear before a special court on Tuesday wearing a bullet-proof jacket.

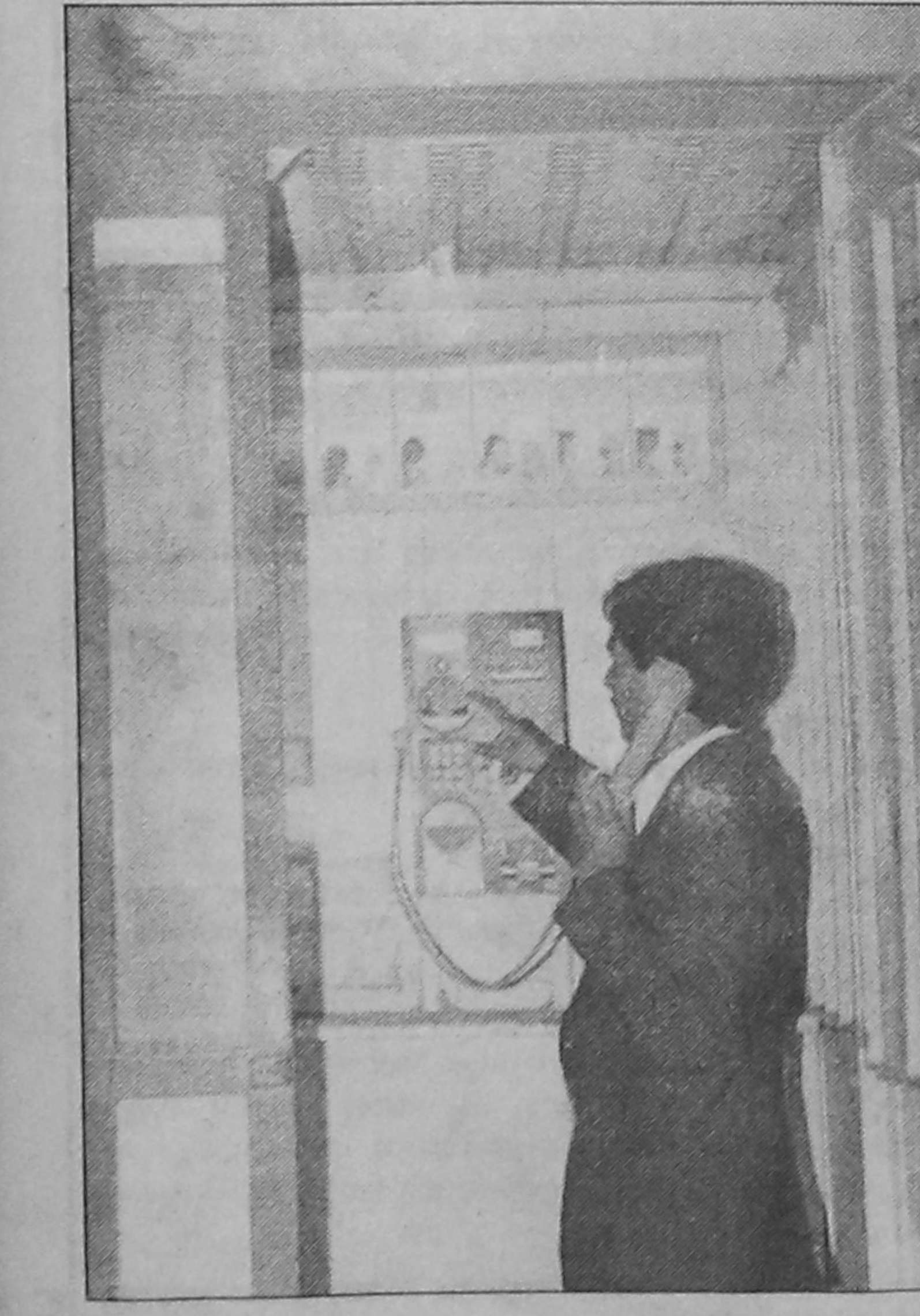
Alam, who is also government approver in Jainal and Khalid murder cases, appeared before the court in connection with the Jainal Khan murder case, in which Ershad Shikder is the main accused.

Police sources said Alam was allowed to wear the bullet-proof jacket for the security of his life.

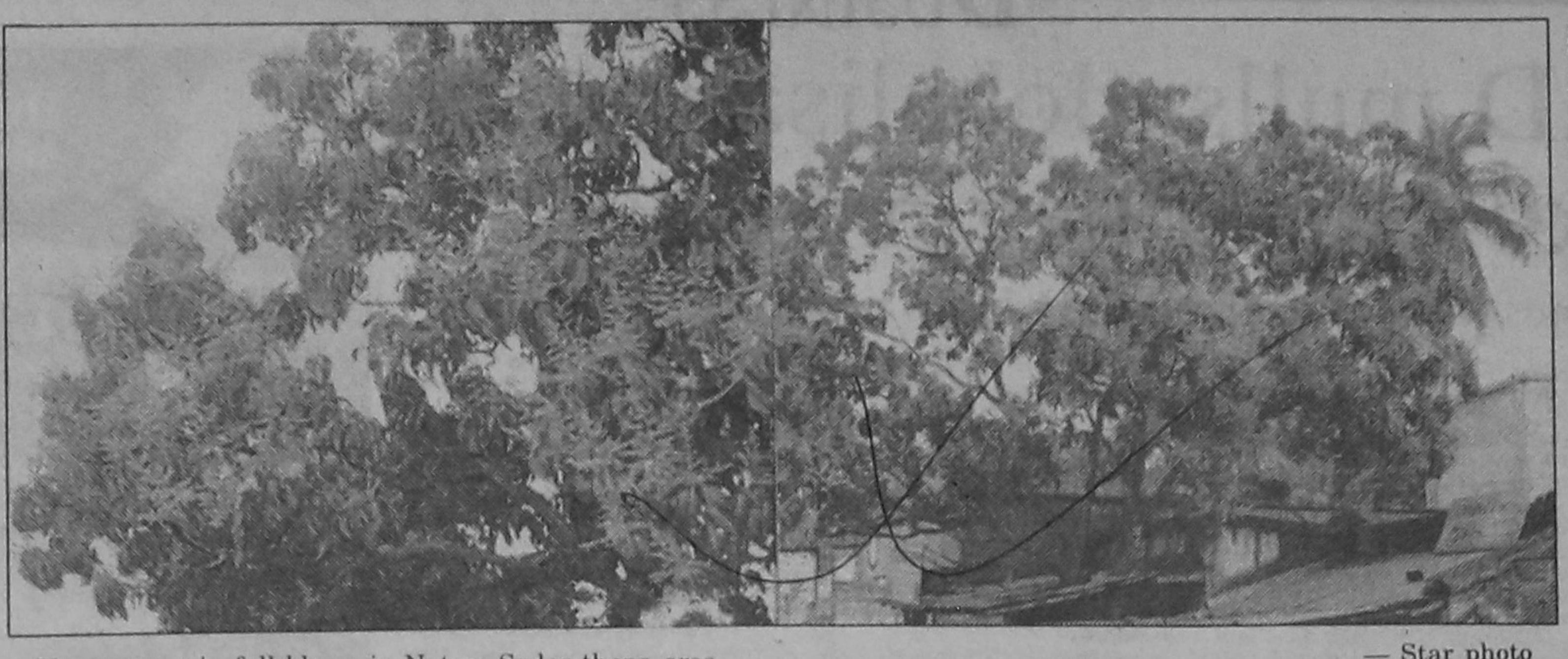
Recently Noor-e-Alam was assaulted by some prisoners in Kustia Jail, said a reliable source in Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP).

According to the source, accomplices of Ershad Shikder, who was arrested in connection with several murder cases, including Jainal and Khalid murder cases, and other criminal cases, were plotting to create unrest in the jail in connivance with some outsiders.

The source further said they were planning to murder Alam with the help of Shikder's armed cadres who are still at large.



A subscriber trying to call from a cardphone booth at Saikupa Thana Parisad premises in Jhenidah district, but in vain. — Star photo



Mango trees in full bloom in Natore Sadar thana area. — Star photo

# Production may fall in Jhenidah Good mango output likely in Natore if weather favours

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Feb 8: Though the coming summer has been termed as the 'oil year' for mango, a good production of the delicious fruit is expected if weather remains favourable here.

Flowering and budding of mango trees this year tell much of the potentiality, says experts and growers. Almost all the trees here are now in full bloom. Buds are found in many trees. New leaves are also growing indicating a good production.

Favourable weather is the reason of good flowering this summer, identified Horticulturist Ayub Hossain Khan, while talking to The Daily Star.

Khan defined that the less intense cold and fog of the last winter could not hamper the timely flowering of abundant buds.

The prospect of mango production is better this year than that of the previous year, said Ayub, while 50-year-old Taha, an aide of a big mango orchard at Shingardaha in Natore sadar thana added that markets would be flooded with mangoes if the buds were not destroyed by seasonal hailstorms, fog and pest-attack.

According to field officer Tareq of local horticulture centre, the owners of mango gardens are taking precautions for protecting the fruit, though a negligible number of mango trees have already been attacked by pests.

Experts said, fluctuation of temperature which is now occurring in this region frequently may hit the production.

Besides, excessive rainfall, cloudy weather and attack by pest and insects can affect the fruit's future prospects.

According to field officer Tareq, in the last year, some other mango tree owners said that most of them knew that spraying of pesticides before November 15 was needed for their trees, but they did not spray any pesticide.

When contacted some experts of AED said that two types of pests Absila and Hopper were responsible for non-flowering of mango trees.

Absila usually blocks the budding producing organs as it produces pest (gum) and the Hopper eats the tender buds which stops flowering.

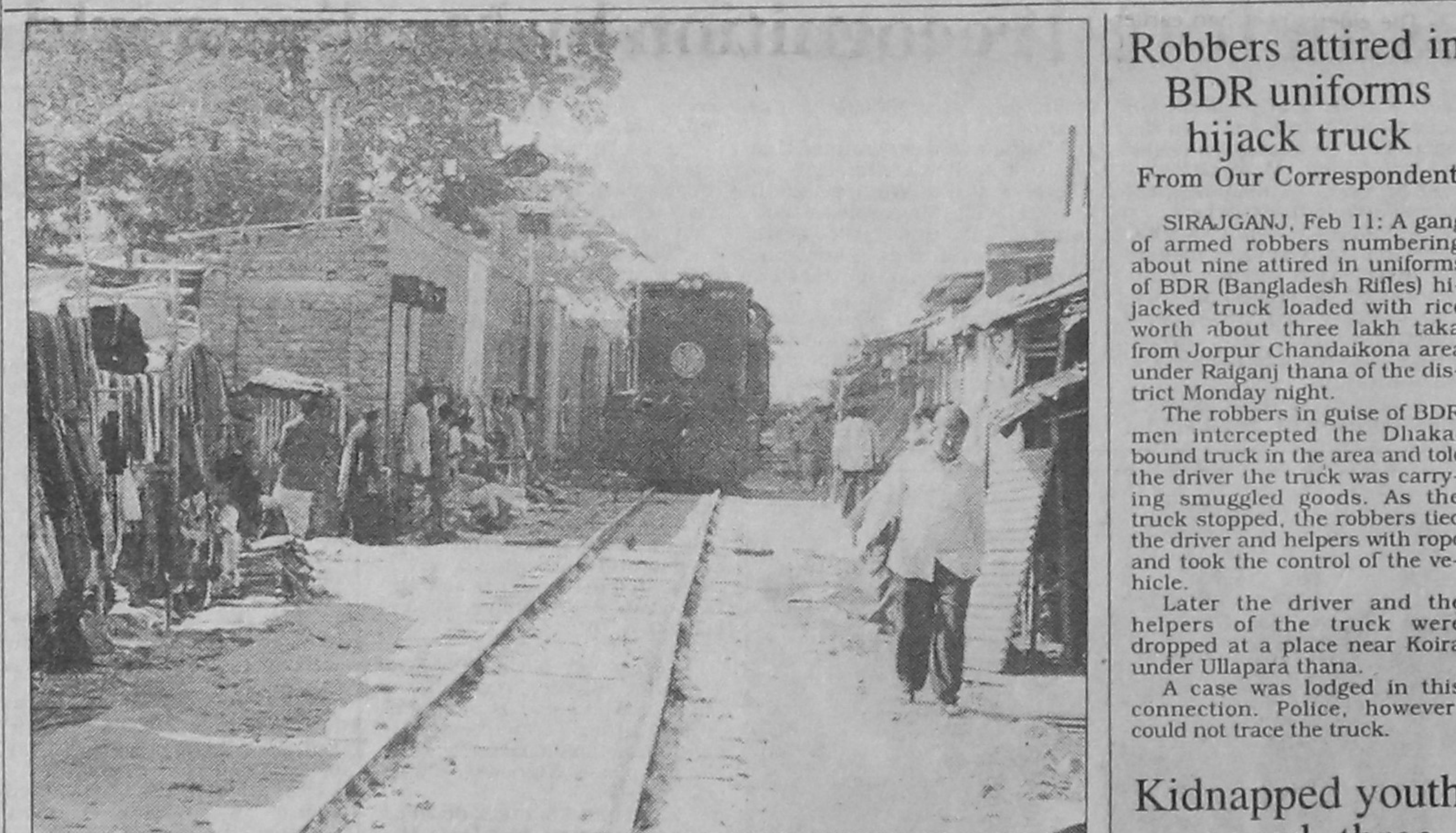
To protect mango trees from Absila and Hopper and to ensure mango production, the farmers should spray pesticides at least once before November 15. But in the survey it was gathered that maximum five per cent of mango trees were provided with spray. As a result flowering was blocked.

Abul Hossain, 53, of Saikupa Courtpara, when asked said, he had sprayed pesticides on one of his total 20 trees. The tree which was provided with spray had flowers. A good number of mangoes are expected from this tree, he said.

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Robbers attired in BDR uniforms hijack truck. From Our Correspondent

# 11 killed in separate road accidents in seven dists

A total of 11 persons were killed recently in separate road accidents in seven districts, report agencies.

Three people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in Cox's Bazar district on Tuesday.

Police and witnesses said a schoolboy, identified as Forhad, 8, was killed in an accident on Chakaria-Badarkhal road at Darveshkata area when a jeep knocked down him on the road.

Angry people damaged some eight jeeps on the road in protest of the killing.

At least two people were killed and five others injured in another accident on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway.

The accident took place when a jeep skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch near Chakaria College.

Hazrat Ali, 55, and Mohammad Huss, 30, died on the spot. The injured persons were admitted to local hospital.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Another report from Jhalakathi adds: A sexagenarian was crashed under the wheels of a bus on Jhalakathi-Rajapur road at Berpasha area on Tuesday.

Police said the old man was seriously injured while he was getting down from a running bus and succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

Identity of the man could not be known immediately.

Three people, including a schoolgirl, were killed in separate road mishaps in Mymensingh and Munshiganj districts on Thursday.

Police said Rekha, 6, was crushed under the wheels of a Mymensingh-bound bus on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Char Ragadpur at about 12 noon.

Following the accident, agitated people went on rampage and damaged five vehicles disrupting traffic movement on the route for four hours.

A report from Munshiganj adds: Nazrul, 20, hailed from Barguna and Khorshed Sheikh, 24, of Tongibari were killed when a timber-laden truck, on which they were travelling, plunged into a roadside ditch at Makhali Bazar on Sipoypara-Dighirpur road.

Separate cases were filed with respective police stations.

A driver was killed and three people were injured in a traffic mishap on Comilla-Kotbari road in Comilla sadar thana on Wednesday.

Police said the accident took place in front of Chistia Textiles Mill when an auto-rickshaw crashed into a tractor.

The dead driver Sirajul Islam, 40, was travelling in the auto-rickshaw along with his wife.

The injured were admitted to Comilla Sadar Hospital. A case was filed.

One person was killed and eight others injured in a road accident near at Wari Road Crossing on Satkhira-Jessore highway under Sadar thana of Satkhira district recently.

Police and hospital sources said, a Jessore-bound passenger mini bus coming from Satkhira skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch. As a result, nine persons were injured seriously and they were immediately taken to sadar hospital.

Of the injured, Ashraf Ali, 57, succumbed to his injuries at sadar hospital.

The driver of the bus, however, managed to escape.

A case was filed with sadar thana in this connection.

An octogenarian was killed in a road accident at Paikpara crossing near Kunder Bazar on Dhaka-Tongibari road on Tuesday.

Witnesses said Morjed Ali Khondakar, 80, was crushed under the wheels of a vegetable loaded truck at dead of night.

Police held the driver with the vehicle.

A case was filed with the respective thana.

An unidentified man was killed and two others were injured in a train-truck collision on Shekheria rail crossing in Jamalpur district town on Wednesday night.

Witnesses said a Dewanganj-bound local train hit a green chill-laden Dhaka-bound truck coming from Madarganj when it stopped on rail track of the crossing due to brake failure of its engine.

# News snaps

**VGF programme**

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 11: Government has brought 12,675 poor families in 13 thanas under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) Programme for the current year, reports UNB.

Each family will receive 30 kgs of wheat a month under the programme launched in July 1999. It will continue till December this year. Officials said some 4,563 mts of wheat have been sanctioned for the programme. The foodgrains are being distributed among the cardholders from their respective UP offices.

**Education Week observed**

KUSHTIA, Feb 11: 'National Education Week' was observed at Islamic University recently, reports BSS.

A discussion meeting on 'Education for Development' and prize-giving ceremony were held on this occasion. Vice-Chancellor Prof Kayes Uddin spoke as the chief guest. In this speech he said, a man is enlightened by education and the light of education is to be spread among the ordinary people.

**Tara pumps installed**

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 11: Public Health Engineering Department has installed 5,854 Tara deep-set pumps in 12 thanas in a bid to ensure uninterrupted supply of pure drinking water, reports UNB.

Thana-wise breakup of the pumps: Sadar-1470, Karimganj-362, Tarail-464, Hossainpur-780, Pakundia-607, Katiadi-295, Baitpur-1177, Bhairab-25, Kullarchar-379, Nikli-250, Mitamoin-20 and Itna-25. Officials said over 10 lakh people have been benefited with installation of the pumps.



Service to humanity: Grameen Bank recently distributed warm clothes, quilts and blankets among its distressed members. Photo shows Rajshahi City Corporation mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu distributing a quilt to a member on behalf of the bank. — Star photo

**Sex workers watching situation**

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 11: Seven months after eviction of sex workers, Tanbazar and Nimtoll whores have again come to the limelight ahead of the High Court verdict on the eviction, reports UNB.

The High Court verdict on the writ petition filed by five human rights and women organisations against the eviction is expected on February 24. Witnesses said overcurious people started roaming around the two brothels amidst various rumours while some others making phone calls to the local press club to know about the case. On Tuesday, a group of youths went around the areas in two minibuses. Some sex workers evicted from the brothels were also seen watching the situation from a safe distance.

**Sunanganj Bar Assoc poll**

SUNAMGANJ, Feb 11: The election of the District Bar Association was held here recently, reports BSS.

Bazul Mazid Khasru and Humayun Kabir were elected president and general secretary respectively.

**Phensidyl seized**

SATKHIRA, Feb 11: BDR personnel seized here 52 bottles of Indian made Phensidyl syrup recently, reports BSS.

BDR sources said, BDR personnel of 12 battalion of Bakal checkpoint seized 52 bottles of phensidyl from a Satkhira-bound motorbike coming from Bhoma near Bakal checkpoint. Rider of the motorbike, however, managed to escape. They seized the motorbike and a case was filed with Sadar thana in this connection.

**Woman held in Madaripur**

MADARIPUR, Feb 11: The Sadar Thana police arrested one woman and recovered eight cocktail here recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Anowara Begum at Laxmiganj under Sadar thana and recovered eight cocktail from her house. She was arrested on the spot. A case was filed with Sadar thana in this connection.

**Training course on pisciculture**

MANIKGANJ, Feb 11: A month-long training course on pisciculture began here on Monday, reports BSS.

Youth Development Department at Manikganj organised the training course. A total of 35 unemployed youths are taking part in the month-long training. Participants are getting training on modern method of fish cultivation including making tank, hatchery and use of fish feed. After completion of the training, the trainees will be given necessary loan for their self reliance.

**Loan disbursed**

KHULNA, Feb 11: Sonali Bank has planned to distribute farm credit amounting to Tk 22 crore in 16 districts of Khulna and Barisal divisions in the current season, reports UNB.

Farmers in Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Kustia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna districts will receive the loan for crop farming. The loan distribution programme will start soon and continue till March.

**Eye camp in Khagrachhari**

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 11: A week-long eye camp began at Model Primary School in Dighinala thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Chairman of Khagrachhari CHT Council Jatindra Lal Tripura inaugurated the camp as chief guest while army Region Commander Brigadier Abdus Salam was present as special guest. The eye camp has been organised in collaboration with Chittagong Lions Eye Hospital. On the opening day, 87 patients were treated free at the camp.

**Biennial conference of NAP**

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 11: The biennial conference of Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP-Mujaffar), Moulvibazar Sadar thana unit was held recently at the party's district office, reports BSS.

Presided over by Nurul Islam Tarapder, president of Moulvibazar Sadar thana unit of NAP, the conference was attended by Abdul Bari Chowdhury, general secretary of Moulvibazar district NAP, Mujibur Rahman Akhil, thana NAP general secretary submitted his secretariat report which was widely discussed by the NAP leaders. The conference was also addressed by district leaders of the organisation.

**Workshop**

COMILLA, Feb 11: A three-day workshop on disaster management concluded at BARD, Comilla, recently, reports BSS.

Thirty district and thana level officers attended the workshop. Former Secretary Sayed Ahmed presented the keynote paper. Aminur Rahman and Kamarul Hassan were course director and assistant course director respectively.

**Tk 6.48 lakh disbursed**

MAGURA, Feb 11: Social Welfare Department has so far distributed Tk 6.48 lakh among 3,240 widows and women abandoned by their husbands in the district, reports UNB.

The money was given under the government programme to support widows and abandoned women across the country. Of the amount, 1,170 women received Tk 2.34 lakh in sadar thana while 720 women Tk 1.44 lakh in Sreepur, 720 women Tk 1.44 lakh in Mohammadpur and 630 women Tk 1.26 lakh in Shaikha thanas. Each woman receives Tk 100 per month under the programme.