

Aman output may face setback in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, July 21: Inadequate rain during the Bangla months of Ashar and Sraban, the peak period of Aman cultivation, has obscured the chances of another bumper production in the district this season, reports UNB.

Experts attribute the inadequate rain during the traditional period of monsoon to climatic change caused by steady degradation of the environment.

Most poor farmers of the region could not prepare their croplands for transplantation of Aman paddy this year as they could not afford water supplied from deep tube-wells.

Some of the farmers are taking loans from moneylenders at high interest rates while some others are selling their cows and household appliances in their bids to collect money for Aman cultivation.

According to local agricul-

ture office, some 74,200 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation of Aman paddy this season with a production target of 167,536 metric tons. But the target is unlikely to be achieved.

Another report from Rangpur says: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sold 597 metric tons of Aman paddy seeds in five districts of Rangpur zone during the current season.

The zone includes Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts.

Some 1,999,432 metric tons of Aman paddy will be produced in 1,008,400 hectares of land in five districts during the season.

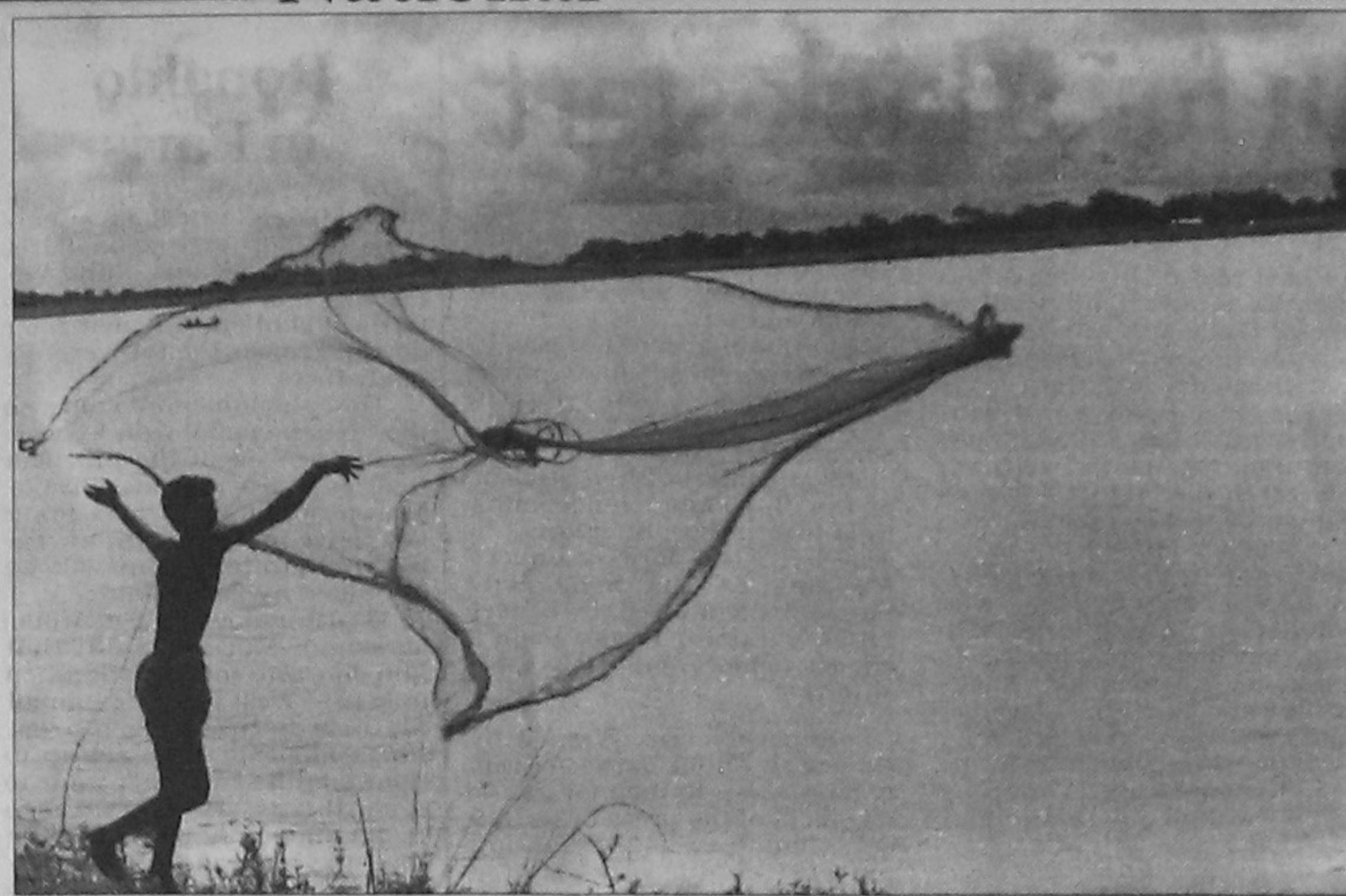
Another report adds: In Bagerhat a total 5,000 hectares of land have been brought under Aman paddy cultivation in the district during the current season.

District Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said a number of demonstration plots have been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation, meanwhile, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has provided quality seeds, pesticides and other necessary inputs to make the programme a success.

AED sources said the production target has been fixed at 5000 metric tons of paddy. BSS from Naogaon says: A three-day long workshop on cultivation and protection of developed paddy seed was held recently.

Farms Seed Centre of BADC and Bangladesh-German Seed Development Project jointly organised the workshop.

Consultant of Bangladesh-German Seed Development Project Hans Skoldes was present at the inaugural function.



Time to fish: A fisherman at village Khordo Kasundi in Sadar upazila of Magura district having a great time as the River Modhumoti swell with the monsoon. — Star photo

Trial under PSA 2 Jubo League men acquitted of charge of terrorism

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 21: Two Jubo League activists were acquitted of the charge of terrorism by the Special Tribunal, Khulna on Thursday.

The verdict was passed by S K M Anisur Rahman Khan, District and Sessions Judge.

The acquitted Jubo League activists are Akil and Nadim. They were tried under Section 10 of the Public Safety Act for resorting to terrorism in drunken condition and firing blank shots in front of the house of gun trader Altar Rahman at Ram Chandra Das Lane on May 6 this year.

The accused were arrested the same night from the place of occurrence. The chargesheet was submitted on May 31 by SI Mizan of Khulna Thana. The CMM sent the charge sheet to the Special Tribunal on June 7 and the charge was framed on June 21.

Trial began on July 6 and argument held on July 18. Ten prosecution witnesses were examined.

They were acquitted of the charge due to lack of evidences and none of the prosecution witnesses deposed in the court against the accused.

This is for the first time that a case under the PSA has been dismissed by the Special Tribunal. Seven cases were tried, while 12 others are pending for trial, a source in the Special Tribunal trying PSA cases said.

JCD-BCL clash at Rajshahi: 8 hurt

RAJSHAHI, July 21: A violent clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists on Shahdowla College campus in Bagha Thursday left at least eight injured, including thana BCL president, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted between the two rival student groups at about 11:30 am as sequel to beating of a student of Shahdowla School on Wednesday.

During agitation the BCL and JCD activists chased each other brandishing firearms. The JCD activists reportedly chopped BCL thana unit president Shariful Islam. A JCD activist, Aminul Islam, lost a portion of his finger during the fighting.

Shariful and Aminul were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Six others were admitted to Bagha Thana Health Centre.

Journalist killing Alleged professional killer arrested

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 21: Khulna thana police arrested an alleged professional killer on Thursday night in connection with the murder of journalist Shamsur Rahman of the Daily Janakantha.

Rafique, 35, one of the armed cadres of ward commissioner Litu, allegedly threatened to kill the journalist few months back.

Earlier, CID police of Jessore arrested a journalist, Benzin Khan, on the same charge.

Benzin was arrested from Jessore town on Wednesday. Another journalist of Khulna is under watch of CID police, sources said.

Bombs explode near Mymensingh Press Club

MYMENSINGH, July 21: Unidentified hoodlums blasted bombs in front of the local press club Tuesday night creating panic among the journalists, reports UNB.

Sources said a number of bombs were exploded in front of the press club at about 10 pm creating panic among the people and forcing the shoppers to shut down their shops at Ganginar Par and C K Ghosh Road.

Earlier at noon, local journalists brought out a procession in the town to protest the killing of journalist Shamsur Rahman in Jessore and submitted a memorandum to the local DC.

Seed crisis

T-Aman farming likely to be hampered in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 21: An acute scarcity of Aman seeds may affect cultivation of Transplanted Aman paddy here during the current season.

Sources in the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said, 60,000 hectares of land are expected to be brought under Transplanted Aman crop farming during the current season here including the commanded area of GK Project.

A total of 3,000 tonnes of seeds are required for cultivation here with 50 kg per hectare of land. Farmers usually produce 95 per cent of the seeds while the rest five per cent are supplied by the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC). But the farmers could not preserve seeds last year due to the devastating flood and other reasons.

BADC could not procure adequate quantity of seeds till now. It could procure only a small quantity of Aman seeds last year from its contract growers which are quite insufficient to meet the demand.

There is a high demand for

BRRI-11 and BRRI-30 seeds among the growers through the appointed dealers. BADC allotted only 100 tonnes of seeds for distribution among the growers through the appointed dealers.

A total of 30 tonnes of seeds have been distributed under the Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme through AED and some non-governmental organisations (NGOs). But the allotted seeds are inadequate to meet the demand. Solvent farmers have collected seeds at the own expense but small and marginal farmers are not in a position to collect the same.

Taking advantage of the situation, some dishonest seed dealers are selling the seeds at high prices. One kg of seed is being sold at Tk 25 to Tk 26 against Tk 15 fixed by BADC. Some officials of the AED confirmed the scarcity of seeds.

Deputy Director of AED told that they had demanded to the BADC to supply 2,000 tonnes of additional seeds to cope with the crisis.

UNICEF report on child rights released

JHENIDAH, July 21: As part of its programmes to create awareness about child rights among rural people, UNICEF has released its report titled 'The Progress of Nations 2000' here recently, reports UNB.

After releasing the report by a UNICEF project officer (education), an open discussion was held on the report that dealt with child rights and the progress of implementation of

various programmes undertaken in different countries of the world.

BSS from Barisal says: The launching ceremony of the 'Progress of Nations-2000', a global publication of the UNICEF, was held at the conference hall of Caritas at Sagardi in the town.

Divisional Commissioner of Barisal M Yeahiea Mollah attended the function as chief guest.



BJMC Advertisement International Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited by Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj, Bangladesh for import of (1) Tender No/01, Polyethylene Granules (Laminating & Film Grade), (2) T. No./02, Spares for Hemming & Herackle Sewing Machine, (3) T. No/03, various sizes of Bearings, (4) T. No/04 Spares for Hibbert Dressing & Measuring Machine, (5) T. No./05, Fire Trailer Pump Engine (6) T. No/06, Thermocouple of Heat Treatment Plant, BD2 Annealed Bar (Chromium Alloy Die Steel) and Spares for Heavy Pneumatic Hammer Machine, (7) T. No./07, Spares for Overhead Crane, (8) T. No./08, Workshop Tools & Equipments and (9) T. No/09, Electrical Spares for Extruder Machine.

Tender Schedule with full details of requirement, specifications, terms & conditions may be obtained from the office of the (1) Controller of Account & Finance, BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, (2) Dy. General Manager (A&F), BJMC Chittagong Zone, Satter Chamber, 99, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (3) The General Manager (A&F), Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj on payment of Tk 750/- for Sl. No. 1, Tk 200/- for Sl. No. 02, 04, 05 & 09, Tk 100/- for Sl. No. 03, 06 & 08 and Tk 250/- for Sl. No 07 of each tender schedule (non-refundable) on all working days (during office hours) except on the date of opening.

Earnest money will have to be deposited in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd. Tender schedule purchase money receipt also to be enclosed with tender, otherwise tender will be straightway cancelled. Tender to be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the (1) Dy. General Manger (Planning), Planning Division, BJMC, Adamjee Court (5th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and (2) Dy. General Manager (SP), Purchase Department, Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj and will be opened on 30.08.2000 at 12-30 PM in presence of the bidder (if any). Tender box will be closed at 12-00 Noon. The management reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in full or part without any obligation or assigning any reason.

BJMC: 402 dt. 16.7.2000
DFP-17754-18/7

G-1335

News snaps

Criminals take shelter in India

PANCHAGARH, July 21: Over 3,000 convicted criminals of 16 northern districts, including Panchagarh, have reportedly taken shelter in West Bengal to escape arrest, reports UNB.

According to information trickling in from across the border, many hardcore criminals, including professional murderers, slip into the bordering country after committing various heinous crimes in Bangladesh. Many of them allegedly enjoy the blessings of local influential people and get married with Indian girls to remain out of reach of Bangladesh police. There have been reports that the criminals reenter into Bangladesh through various Indian and Bangladesh enclaves at night and again indulge in crimes. Some gunrunners are also among the criminals.

10 commit suicide

JHENIDAH, July 21: Ten people, nine of them women, allegedly committed suicide in Shalakupura upazila during the first nine days of this month, reports UNB.

They were identified as Gurudasi, 65, of Kachua, Chandana, 18, of Mahishadanga, Phoolmati, 20, of Hakimpur, Rahima, 30, of Dahakula, Janila, 28, of Churulia and Sundari, 18, of Sripur villages. The self-murderers also include Shabana 20, of Raira, Asma, 25, of Shadhubati, Nasima, 18, of Shiddhir and Shahidul Islam, 35, of Kashimpur villages. They all killed themselves by taking poison and pesticide, police said.

Planted saplings need care

NETRAKONA, July 21: Sapling plantation here has risen remarkably due to government's massive campaign. But most of the planted saplings die for lack of care, reports UNB.

Thousands of saplings are planted alongside roads, highways, embankments and other places every year, especially during national plantation drive, by various government, non-government and voluntary organisations. Unfortunately, most of the saplings die within weeks as few of the organisations take care of the planted saplings despite allocation for their maintenance. According to forest officials, many planted saplings die from various unknown diseases caused by flooding. Allegations are also there that some unscrupulous people destroy roadside trees with poisonous chemical and sell those to timber traders, causing huge losses to the national exchequer.

Loan for poor women

HABIGANJ, July 21: In an effort to alleviate rural poverty, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has distributed Tk 1.65 lakh soft-term loan among poor women of Lakhal upazila, reports UNB.

Thirty-three women of the upazila received Tk 5,000 each after they were imparted training on poultry farming and small trading. UNO Sahadat Hossain distributed the loan at a function at local BRDB auditorium on July 16.

Kotalipara Municipality budget

GOPALGANJ, July 21: Kotalipara Municipality has announced a Tk 9.47 crore budget for fiscal 2000-2001, reports UNB.

Municipality chairman Kamal Hossain announced the budget at the conference room of the municipality in presence of local elite, municipality employees and journalists on July 11. A total of Tk 20.07 lakh has been earmarked for revenue expenditures while Tk 8.49 crore for annual development programme.



A dance sequence from a cultural show held recently on the occasion of the annual sports meet of Netrakona district police. — Star photo

Sirajganj DIARY

Man murdered

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 21: One person was murdered by unknown miscreants at Gopalnagar village in Shajadpur upazila on Monday night.

The victim was identified as Abdul Mannaf, 23, son of Azimuddin of the same village. Police sources said, some miscreants numbering four to five with sharp weapons entered into his room when he was asleep. They suffocated him to death and fled from the spot. Police suspected that the cause behind the murder was past enmity between him and two local youths who demanded toll from him a few days ago. Police recovered the body on Tuesday and sent to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Shajadpur PS, but none was arrested.

Phensidyl seized

Police seized 705 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from Dhaka-bound coaches and arrested three persons on Dhaka-Bogra highway in separate drives.

Acting on a tip police raided the Dhaka-bound coach at Bhuiyagati under Raiganj upazila which came from Fulbari under Dinajpur district and seized 915 bottles of Indian phensidyl and arrested them. They are, Salmia Khatun, 34, wife of Abdul Karim of Karimpur village under Dinajpur district, Azizur Rahman, 45, son of Samuddin Bepari of Chakbala village of Birol thana under Dinajpur district, Manirul Islam, 46, son of Golam Mondal of Lalmai Sompur, of Ghoraghat upazila of the same district. Police also seized 190 bottles of Indian phensidyl raides Dhaka-bound coach at Bangabandhu Setu West side. Two separate cases were lodged with Raiganj and Bangabandhu Setu West thana.

Rapist gets life term

A court here convicted one person and sentenced him to life term imprisonment in a sensational rape case.

The convict is Pintu, 25. Two others were released as they were not found guilty. According to prosecution the victim of village Khudbandi and a student of Khudbandi High School under Kaziupur upazila was raped by the convicted person on July 17 in 1997. The convicted person with two others forcibly entered into her room and raped her. Victim's elder brother filed a rape case at Kaziupur police station against three persons, Sirajganj District and Session Judge Md Rafiqul Islam on July 10 declared the verdict after examining seven witnesses and records.

Three commit suicide

Three youths committed suicide in separate villages on the same day at Belkuchi upazila.

The victims were Jahurul Haque, 31, of Boyrabari village who hanged himself to death on July 9 at his house while Ruhul Anon, 22, of Sernagar village of the same upazila swallowed poison at his house and Sahrudin, 22, of Mukundogati village was hanged to death, in their respective houses. Police filed three UD cases. Police, after postmortem, handed over three bodies to their relatives.

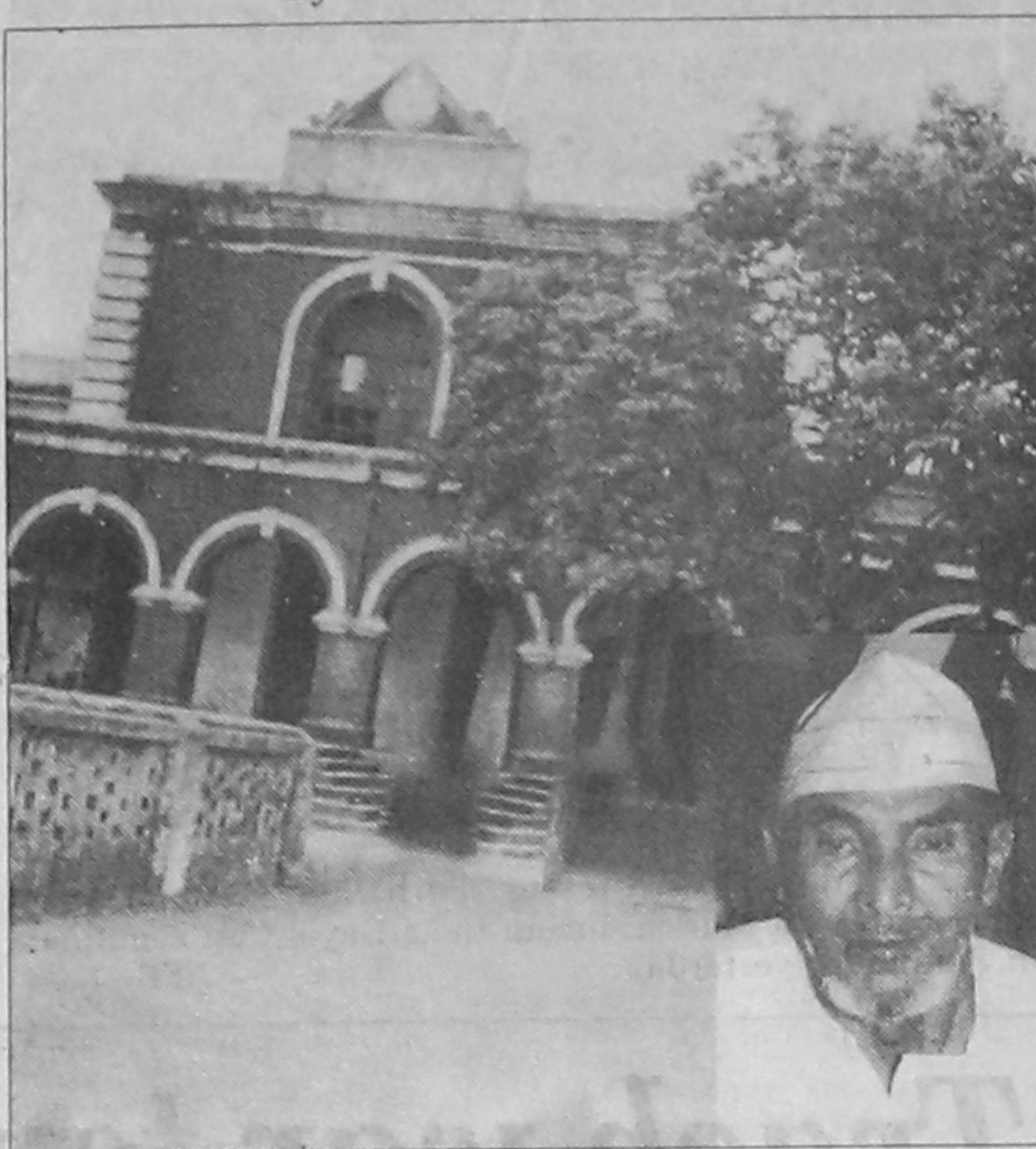
Acid thrown on worker

One press worker received acid burn injury and had undergone treatment at Ullapara Health Complex.

Identity of the victim was Yusuf Ali, 54, a press worker at Shree Khola village in Ullapara upazila. Police sources said, a gang of four to five miscreants went to the victim's house recently and found him sleeping. Then they forced open the door and threw acid on his person. He was seriously burnt. Local people sent him to Ullapara Health Complexes. A case has been lodged with Ullapara PS. Police suspected that past enmity might be the cause of the incident.

Everfresh memory of a noble teacher

By Z A M Khairuzzaman



Front view of Nilphamari High School and former headmaster Asir Uddin Ahmed (inset) — Star photo

The glory of Nilphamari High School (now Government Boys' High School) during the period of Asir Uddin Ahmed as its headmaster is now a legend. The noble leader shaped the school on the basis of 'truth', 'love' and 'purity' in the early 50s till its nationalisation.

He created the golden sons of the soil like Shaheed Captain RAM Khairul Bashar, Ambassador Humayun Kabir, Engineer AR Saber, late Ahsan Ahmed who died recently in London, cultural personalities like Asaduzzaman Noor, Rathindra Nath Roy and many others who still guide the nation.

As the first Bengali Muslim headmaster of the 120-year-old school, formerly known as Nilphamari High English School, Asir Uddin turned it into a

model institution with his hardwork and dedication. Memory of the 'Headmaster' who passed away on July 22 in 1989 at his Nilphamari residence is still everfresh in the hearts of hundreds of his beloved students.

Today (Saturday) is the 11th anniversary of death of Asir Uddin Ahmed. A milad mahfil has been arranged after Asr prayer at the residence of his son Khaleque Dad at 12/1-A West Nakhal Para (4th floor), Tejgaon (near Chhapra Mosque), Dhaka.

Students, friends, relatives and well-wishers of Asir Uddin Ahmed have been requested to attend there and pray for peace and salvation of the departed soul.

Journalist murder

More protests from five districts

By Staff Correspondent

Reports of mourning processions and protest meetings from various districts are pouring in condemning the killing of Shamsur Rahman, Special Correspondent of The Daily Janakantha in Jessore recently.

Our Correspondent from Sylhet reports: A mourning procession was brought out in Sylhet town on Thursday afternoon demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Journalist Shamsur Rahman.

About 60 journalists wearing black badge joined the procession organised by Sylhet Press Club.

It started from the press club premises which paraded the main streets of the town and terminated at Modhuban point.

The press club also held a condolence meeting on Thursday night at the club.

The journalists here will wear black badges for three days from Friday and hold another condolence meeting on Sunday. It was announced after Thursday procession.

BSS from Bandarban reports: A protest meeting organised by Bandarban press club on Thursday demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the assailants of Shamsur Rahman.

Presided over by Osman Gani, president of the press club, the meeting was addressed by the club secretary Manirul Islam Monu, Ittefaq District Correspondent Milton Chakrabarty, BSS District Correspondent Enamul Haq Kashimi, Janakantha Correspondent AKM Jahangir, Banglar Bani Correspondent MA Hakim Chowdhury, Giridhara Correspondent Musa Faruki, Karnatuli Correspondent Nasirul Alam, Sangram Correspondent Abul Basar Siddiqi and Manab Zamin and Natun Bangladesh Correspondent.

Report from Chuadanga says: The journalists of Chuadanga town at an emergency meeting held in Chuadanga on Tuesday at the press Club strongly condemned the killing of Shamsur Rahman.

The meeting, with Iqbal Atahar Taj, Vice-President of Chuadanga Press Club in the chair, demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

The meeting expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

A seven-day long programme was also declared in the meeting to condole the death of Rahman. The programme included wearing of black badge, opening of condolence book at local press club and holding of protest rally and condolence meeting.

UNB from Patuakhali says: Local newsmen have taken up a three-day programme to protest the gruesome murder of journalist Shamsur Rahman.

The programmes include hoisting of black flags atop the local press club building and newspaper offices, wearing black badges by newsmen on Wednesday, taking out a silent procession in the town and handing over a memorandum to the Home Minister through the Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali on Thursday.

Another report from Tangail adds: Tangail Press Club held a protest meeting on Monday against the killing of Rahman.

The meeting condemned the heinous killing and urged the government to arrest the killers and give it exemplary punishment.

The meeting was presided over by the President of the club, Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury.