

Split in Netrakona BNP

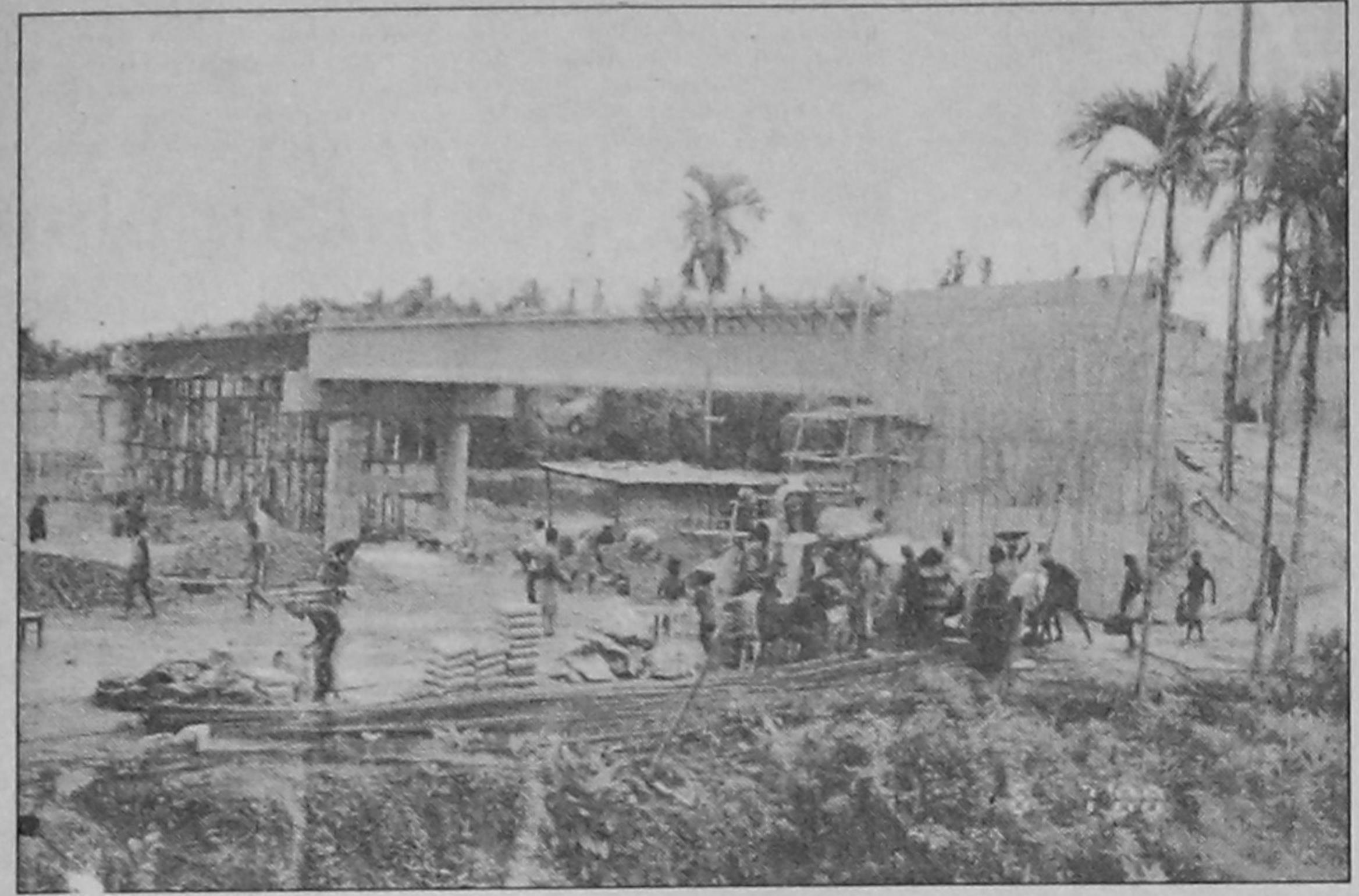
From Jahangir Alam

NETRAKONA, Aug 9: Serious disagreement and conflict between two factions of Netrakona district BNP has been prevailing hampering organisational activities of the main opposition party.

Workers and supporters of BNP in district town including 10 upazila headquarters are frustrated.

The conflict surfaced in the middle of 1998 when the then former district Jatiya Party president and former Zila Parishad chairman Asrafuddin Khan left Jatiya Party and joined BNP. In April this year, chairperson of BNP Begum Khaleda Zia appointed Asrafuddin Khan president of Netrakona district BNP without any conference.

Because of the decision of chairperson, leaders and workers are divided. One group is led by Asrafuddin Khan and another group is led by former MP Abu Abbas.



Construction work of Chitra Bridge in Narail district, a dream of renowned artist late S M Sultan was started in 1995, but its work remains stalled for reasons unknown to all. Initially an amount of Taka 4 crore was allocated and on another occasion an amount of Taka 2 crore 19 lakh was allocated for the purpose. None knows when the rest work of this bridge will be completed. On completion of the bridge the distance of Narail with the capital city will be shortened by 100 kilometres. —Star photo

Landslides claim 12

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 9: Landslides claimed 12 lives and injured 35 others last month.

Four members of a family were killed and six others sustained injuries in a landslide at Himchari village under Ramu upazila on July 19.

The dead victims were identified as Abdur Rahim, 45, and his wife and children named Rahima Khatun, 35, Salamat Ullah, 4, and Enayet Ullah, 2, Rehana Begum, 22, and her two day old son Muktar Ahmed were killed in the incident.

Another incident of landslide occurred at Muhiurpara village of Sadar upazila on July 24. A seven-year-old boy Saiful Hassan killed and five others sustained injuries in this incident.

Local people recovered the body and rescued six injured persons by digging mud.

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Sub-standard treatment in clinics

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu



A private clinic in Sirajganj town —Star photo

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 9: The standard of treatment in private hospitals and clinics is deteriorating day by day.

There are even allegations against some clinics of cheating. There is a government hospital, nine health complexes, many health sub-centres in the district. The government hospital was established in 1958 as a 100 bed hospital. Now rush of patients to hospital has mounted so high that it always remains overcrowded. Patients are always seen to crowd in the floors and verandahs. There are no sufficient number of doctors, nurses, and aya. Medical facilities are too short to meet the demands. So the patients are to suffer much. Especially the patients of general surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, orthopedics and neuro-surgery are to suffer most. They are to wait for weeks after weeks on the beds and floors to have their turns.

In this perspective, private clinics are established and gained popularity. These clinics also become overcrowded, commercially viable within a very short period. This has led to establishment of more new clinics. As a result a mushroom growth of clinics took place. The private clinics are increasing in number every year. The office of the civil surgeon could not say the actual number of private clinics and hospitals working in the town and other upazilas. The number will be over 100 said an official. These private hospitals and clinics are mainly surgery-based. But most of those have no well-equipped operation theatre. Ibne-Sina Hospital, Moyen Uddin Memorial Hospital and Clinic, Poli Clinic are the few exceptions which are more or less well-equipped and well-managed with modern operation theatres. Others have no cardiac monitor or pulse oximeter. Situation of cleanliness and sanitation is not satisfactory in most of the clinics. Patients are kept in corridors and verandahs, raising temporary curtains of cloth and hardboards. The rooms are not cleared properly. Bed smells evolve from the rooms. When number of patients increases sufferings of patients multiply.

The clinics charge Taka 5,000 to 12,000 from the patient for a minor operation, Taka 35,000 for major operation. Seat rents range from Taka 80 to Taka 150 in ordinary wards and Taka 200 to Taka 300 for cabins per day. Most clinics have their own diagnostic units. So their registration remain hanged, he said.

For this reason the government is being deprived of a handsome amount of revenue income every year.

The government should promulgate specific rules and regulations regarding establishment and running of clinics to check malpractices and irregularities.

Housewife receives acid injuries in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

General secretary of the new district BNP committee Abu Taher Talukdar, organising secretary of district BNP Mahfuzul Haque, president and secretary of Netrakona sadar upazila BNP Shiroush Alam (Maruf) and Rafiqul Islam (Jewel) are the main backers of Asrafuddin group.

The conflict has taken a serious turn when general secretary of the new district BNP committee Abu Taher Talukdar filed a case under PSA accusing 16 JCD and Juba Dal activists.

The internal conflict of Netrakona BNP is tarnishing the image of late President Ziaur Rahman and that of Begum Khaleda Zia day by day.

BNP workers are getting frustrated gradually. Awami League has been gaining ground due to this reality.

An influential leader of Netrakona district BNP Advocate Nuruzzaman (Nuru), former vice-president of Netrakona district BNP Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, former BNP secretary of Netrakona Municipalities Kamal Ahmed, and convener of district Krishok Dal Salauddin Khan (Milky) have rallied round Abu Abbas.

Policemen's predicament

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Aug 9: A growing tendency of taking voluntary retirement at the police department here is visible in recent days.

Sources in the Natore police said, a total of 56 police men have volunteered to go on retirement in the last three and a half years in the district. Most of the policemen are of the rank of constable.

Official sources could not show any reasonable reason for this tendency among the constables. A senior police official, however, pointed out that this occupation of police has, now-a-days, become risky and troublesome following the rising tendency of crimes and their pattern.

The constables' financial supports are not adequate for their survival, he added.

Several constables told this correspondent that the legal

opportunity of enjoying leaves are rare in the police department.

The concerned law permits every government employees to enjoy 30 days leave in a year. But, it was reported in many cases that the constables are deprived of the opportunity.

Sometimes, the constables are to perform much more duty due to the increasing rate of crimes and lack of manpower in police.

Official sources said, at least 50 posts of constable are lying vacant for a long time while there are 184 posts in the Special Armed Force (SAF) here.

In recent days the acceptability of police has remarkably decreased following their corruption. People hardly honour policemen. This may be a reason for leaving this job.

An official, however, said that a good amount of pension money lures policemen leave the job.

Obituary



From A Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Aug 9: Md Saidul Haque, retired Circle Officer (Rev), a former member of East Pakistan Civil Service (EPCS) and father of Md Mesbahul Ferdous, Acting Editor of the Weekly Dinajpuri Kagoj died on August 1 at his residence at Araje Atral Shakoapara in Parbatipur upazila. He was 70.

He left behind his widow, five sons, three daughters and a large number of admirers to mourn his death.

The namaz-e-Janaza of the deceased was held at the local Nurul Majid High School premises on August 2. He was buried at his family graveyard at his village. He was involved in many social works.

Installation of TV sub-centre begins in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Aug 9: A team of experts from France has started installing a tower of Rangamati Television Sub-centre which is likely to be completed by September to fulfil the long-felt demand of people of the district, reports BSS.

An amount of Taka 13 crore was allocated to construct the Rangamati Television Sub-centre with the French assistance of Taka 10 crore, executive engineer of Rangamati Unit of Public Works Department said.

Construction of infrastructure of TV Sub-centre has already been completed under the supervision of local PWD unit, official said.

Rangamati TV Sub-centre is likely to start functioning from September next, official sources said.

15 hurt in Noakhali

NOAKHALI, Aug 9: A clash between land less and landowners at Charbagya in Sadar upazila last week left at least 15 people injured, six critically, reports BSS.

Witnesses said the clash erupted on August 2 when the landowners tried to evict the landless people from the land they took on lease from the government. The landless people have been living on the land for a long time.

Of the injured, Idris, 29, Monnan, 50, Latif, 47, Kadir, 52, Nurul Huda, 48, and Efran Uddin, 59, were admitted to hospital.

Meanwhile, about 16 people were injured, four by bullets, when robbers opened fire on them during a robbery at the house of Abul Kashem of village Kaladrap in Sadar upazila on August 1. The robbers fired the villagers when they tried to chase them.

Rapist gets life term

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 9: A court here has convicted a man and sentenced him to lifetime imprisonment for seducing an eight-year-old girl, reports BSS.

Third Additional Sessions Judge SM Helal Uddin awarded Matiur Rahman with the punishment for seducing the girl of Khagra village in Pakundia upazila.

There is no clear cut specific rules and regulations to supervise the private hospitals and clinics, said an official in the office of the Civil Surgeon. So the malpractices and irregularities goes on, he said.

Some clinic-owners said that there was a system of registration for the private clinics previously, but the system is not followed now. The registration fee is Taka 5,000. The registration should be renewed every year paying Taka 5,000. "We applied for registration 2/3 years ago, but the concerned authorities have not sent yet any team to visit our clinic," said an owner of a clinic on condition of anonymity. So their registration remain hanged, he said.

According to Feni Diabetic Association, the three storied hospital at a cost of Taka three crore was constructed in Mizan Road area in the town with the financial assistance of Health Ministry.

The construction work started in 1995. Patients from Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur will be benefited from the hospital.

Construction of Feni Diabetic Hospital completed

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Aug 9: Construction of 25-bed Feni Diabetic Hospital has been completed.

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National

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News snaps

Breast Feeding Week observed

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 9: World Breast Feeding Week 2000 was observed here on Tuesday befittingly.

A rally jointly led by Dr. M. Mohades Hossain, Civil Surgeon, Sirajganj, Prodip Kumar Halder ADM and Shamsuzzaman, DDPD, Sirajganj marked the occasion. The rally was participated by government and non-government officials, elite, NGO workers and students. The procession started from Sirajganj Civil Surgeon's office and ended at Sirajganj Nursing Training Centre parading main streets of the town. After the procession Sirajganj DC A F M Saiful Islam opened the week in front of the Nursing Training Centre. Discussion meetings on breast feeding at various health institutions, art competition for children, essay competition and prize giving ceremony were held on the concluding day.

Missing man arrested

SATKHIRA, Aug 9: Police arrested a missing man who was allegedly murdered by his co-villagers in Kaliganj upazila on Friday, reports BSS.

Police said the arrested Amir Ali, son of Tajel Sardar of Gobindapur village was missing since last one year. His mother Amena Begum filed a murder case against Abdul Majid and Tofazzal Hossain of the same village. Police on the basis of the case arrested Majid and Tofazzal one-year back. Acting on a tip, police nabbed Amir from his father-in-law's house at village Khormi of the same upazila. Police also arrested his mother for filing the false case.

Dacoit arrested

BAGERHAT, Aug 9: Police arrested a dacoit along with a gun at Tengrakhali village in Kachua upazila on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Police said they raided a house at the village and arrested Imdad Ali, an accomplice of the notorious robber Amir Ali was arrested earlier. They said Imdad was wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases. Police arrested Amir Ali in injured condition after a heavy gunfight with his gang at Charkathi in the same upazila on April 2.

Man commits suicide

THAKURGAON, Aug 9: A husband allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Mondalaldam village in Sadar upazila failing to bear shock at the death of his beloved wife, reports BSS.

The victim Jitendrath got frustrated at the death of his newly married wife a month ago. She also allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a family feud. The wailing husband later adopted the same way on July 28.

New course in Rajnagar College

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 9: Business Management course at Higher Secondary level has been introduced at Rajnagar Degree College from current academic year, reports BSS.

Principal of Rajnagar Degree College said, Bangladesh Education Board will conduct the course. With introduction of this technical course, students will be able to take advantage of modern education.

Wheat procurement drive

RANGPUR, Aug 9: The district Food Department will purchase 15165 tonnes of wheat from the growers during the wheat procurement drive, reports BSS.

Official sources said, as many as nine purchasing centres have been established here. The nine purchasing centres are Rangpur Sadar, Pirogachha, Gangachara, Pirojgon, Bhendabari, Kaunia, Bandarganj, Taragonj and Satibari.

Girl killed in road mishap

BAGERHAT, Aug 9: A schoolgirl was run over by a tempo at Mirzapur on Bagerhat-Khergragh road on Tuesday morning, police said, reports BSS.

Aroza, 10, class IV student of a local primary school, was hit by the tempo and later succumbed to her injuries in Sadar Hospital. Police arrested the driver Omar Faruq and seized the vehicle. A case was filed.

Drug addicts increasing

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 9: Drug addiction has been increasing alarmingly, reports BSS.

Different kinds of drug like opium, marijuana and cocaine are freely and openly bought and sold in the town. New town, Monipuri Ghat, Akra Bazar, Maher Patti, Court Road and Ghati are the places where the drugs are available. Young stars freely consume these deadly drugs in even in public places. As a result of these free and open uses of these drugs, anti-social activities and crimes