

Cop closed for beating two women

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A sub-inspector of Ranishankoil Police Station in the district was closed on charge of beating a woman and her daughter. SI Asgar Ali was closed to the district Police Lines yesterday after the allegation was brought against him, said Superintendent of Police Farhad Ahmed. Abul Kasem of Birashi village alleged that on Friday, he along with his wife Hosne Ara, 45, and daughter Parvin, 25, went to take food at a restaurant near the PS. When they went to pay bill, an altercation took place with the restaurant manager over price of the food. At this, the SI came to the hotel, took the side of the manager and engaged in altercation with them. He then beat Hosne Ara and Parvin.

Marriage registrar jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra mobile court on Friday jailed a marriage registrar and fined four others for holding child marriage at Shajahanpur upazila of the district. Md Shafiqul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer and also the executive magistrate, handed down the verdict of 15 days' imprisonment to the marriage registrar and fined four relatives of the bride and bridegroom Tk 1 thousand each for holding marriage of a schoolgirl. The marriage registrar is Nurul Islam Bachchu, 55, of Aria union under the upazila.

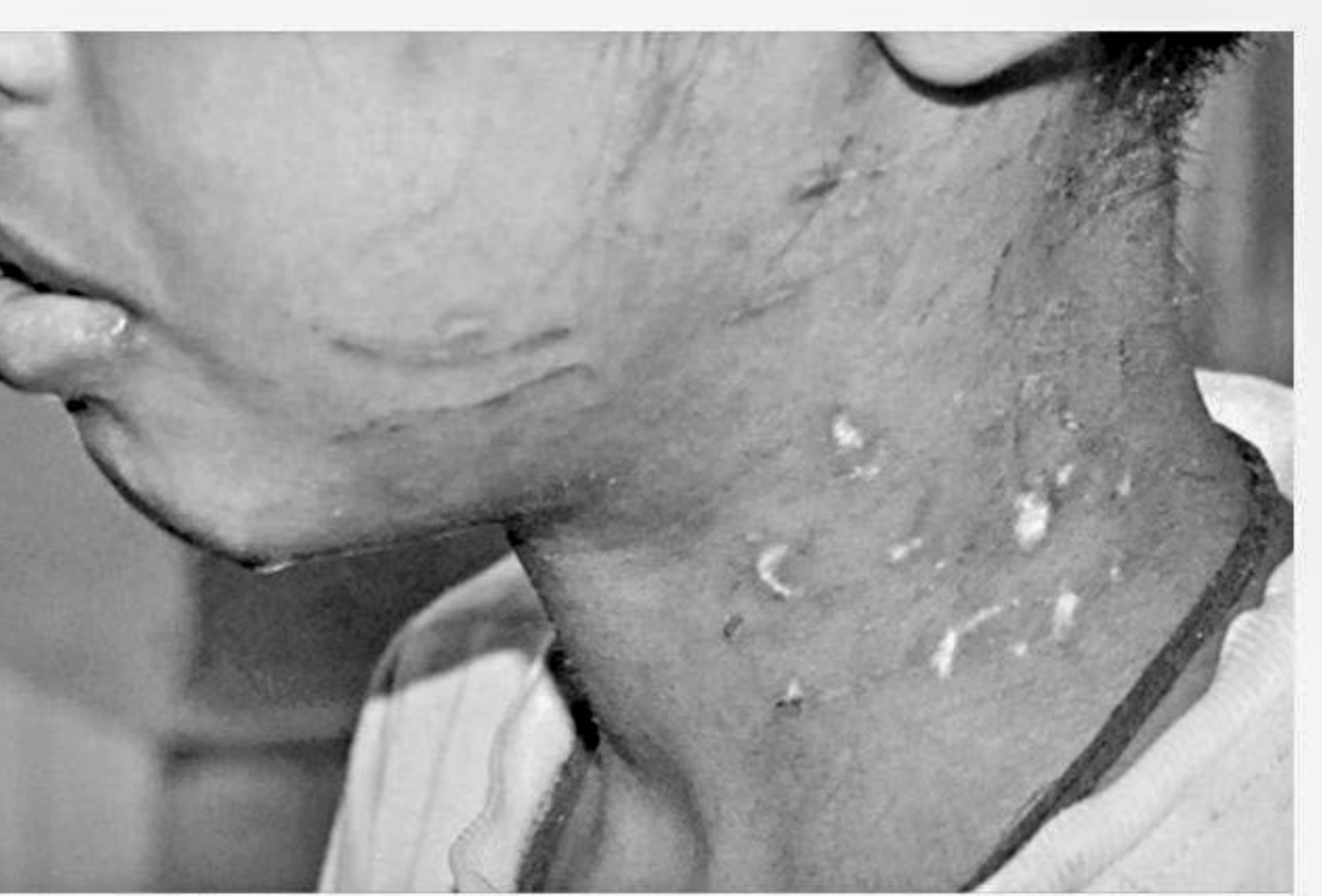
Indian cattle trade in syndicate's grip

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

An organised syndicate controls 10 markets selling Indian cattle in border areas of the district, thanks to the lax vigilance of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). Consequently, the government is deprived of revenue worth crores of taka. Around 6-7 thousand Indian cattle are smuggled into Bangladesh through 15 border routes in the district daily and these are sold at 10 cattle markets, sources at border areas said. As per rule, Tk 500 is to be paid to the government authorities against each cow. The government earned revenue of Tk 1.66 crore and 66,500 against 33,333 Indian cattle for the last seven months since January to July this year, said officials of Customs, Excise and Vat in Lalmonirhat Circle. If the stipulated revenue was paid for all the Indian cattle, the government would earn Tk 30-35 lakh every-

day, and the figure would be Tk 9-10 crore a month, customs officials said. "Customs officials collect revenue against Indian cattle following the note given by BGB. If BGB men are vigilant enough, it would ensure huge revenue earning from Indian cattle," said Harish Chandra, superintendent of Customs, Excise and Vat in Lalmonirhat Circle. Nur Islam, 44, an Indian cattle trader in Islampur border area of Patgram upazila, said, "We bring Indian cattle into Bangladesh through the border amid risk. We buy a cow for Tk 8-15 thousand from Indian people, and sell it for Tk 25-35 thousand in the cattle market inside Bangladesh. We pay Tk 1500-2000 to the syndicate for managing law enforcers and others along the border and in cattle markets. "It is true that the government is deprived of huge revenue from Indian cattle. But many people, especially law

enforcers, political men, and even reporters earn illegal benefit from the trade," said one of the bidders of Doikhowa cattle market in Hatibandha upazila. Bhola Miah, 45, an Indian cattle trader on Durgapur border of Aditmari upazila, alleged that a smuggler recruited by BGB collects Tk 600-700 against each Indian cow or buffalo from them in the name of managing BGB and others. The alleged smuggler said he collects bribe money to make the cattle business trouble-free. However, commander of Durgapur BGB camp Nayek Subedar Saifuddin Ahmed refuted the allegation and said BGB never recruits anybody for collecting illegal toll. Lt Col Ahmed Bazlur Rahman Hayati, commanding officer of Lalmonirhat 15 BGB Battalion, said due to proper initiative of BGB, the revenue earning from Indian cattle has increased this year.



Brutally tortured house help lands in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police on Friday evening rescued a 10-year-old boy with serious injuries on the head and hands, caused due to alleged torture by his employer in the town. The boy, Yasin Ali, son of Babul Akter of Char Ananjipur village in Mymensingh Sadar upazila, was working as domestic help at the house of advocate Faruk in Islambagh area of Dinajpur municipality, for the last four months, police quoted the boy as saying. Faruk's wife Rina Begum, who hails from Mymensingh district, brought him there. Finding the boy beside a road in Suihari area of Dinajpur, locals informed police and Bishwanath Roy, an SI of Dinajpur Kotwali Police Station, took him to Dinajpur General Hospital around 8:30pm on Friday. From there he was referred to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital [DjMCH]. "The boy required several stitches on the head and hands. We also

found bruises all over his body," Dr Arman of Emergency Ward of DjMCH said. The torture has left the boy traumatised, said Dr Borhan, chief of paediatric surgery at DjMCH. Visiting the hospital yesterday morning, this correspondent saw the boy lying on a bed under the care of nurses. "On Friday evening, Rina Begum beat me with a steel ladle and forced me out of the house. She used to torture me almost every day. Often she pulled out my hair. They gave me leftover foods," Yasin said in a feeble voice. He is the second of three siblings and read in Class II. Four months ago, his father, who is a poor rickshaw-puller, sent him to work as a domestic help in Dinajpur at the insistence of Rina Begum's mother, the boy said. Advocate Faruk said, "I employed the boy at Tk 1,000 per month. My wife often slapped the boy as he used to piss on sofa while sleeping there." Redwanur Rahim, OC of Dinajpur Kotwali Police Station, said they have asked the tortured boys' parents to come to Dinajpur and lawful action will be taken after their arrival.



Cattle brought from India are being taken to a market in Mogolhat border area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

SNIPPETS

Fratricide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man killed his elder brother as a sequel to a land dispute at Raihati village under Solonga Police Station in Sirajganj on Friday night. The deceased, Shamsul Haque, 45, was son of Amzad Hossain of the village. On Friday evening, Shamsul developed a quarrel with his younger brother Akhter Hossain allegedly over a disputed ancestral land, said Sub-inspector Mokhlesur Rahman of Solonga Police Station. At one stage, Akhter beat up Shamsul with a bamboo stick and fled the scene, leaving him severely injured. Shamsul died at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital while undergoing treatment around 8:00pm, the SI added.

Housewife beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A housewife was beaten to death by her in-laws allegedly over a family feud in Saghata upazila of the district early yesterday. The deceased was identified as Sultana Begum, 27, wife of Shafi Mia of Dhanarua village. Quoting locals, police said in absence of Shafi, a mason, who stays in the capital, Sultana's in-laws often tortured her over trifling matters. In the wee hours of yesterday, Shafi's parents and siblings beat up Sultana mercilessly and fled the scene, leaving her dead on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent it to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

MPO cancellation protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Students of Joynand Degree College in Kaharol upazila blocked the Birganj-Pirganj regional road for hours yesterday protesting the government's decision not to include the institution under the monthly payment order. Chairman of Dabar Union Parishad Satyajit Roy said the Education Ministry published a list of 199 colleges across the country to be nationalised on June 30, which included the name of Joynand Degree College. A few days ago, the college authorities learnt that the inclusion of their institution was cancelled over various grounds. Protesting the decision, hundreds of students of the institution blocked the road for nearly five hours from 10:00am.

Militancy condemned

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Local journalists formed a human chain at Mymensingh town yesterday, protesting militancy and the recent terror attacks across the country. Journalists of different electronic and print media joined the hour-long programme in front of Mymensingh Press Club in the morning. Leaders of different professional and political organisations also joined the rally. At the rally, the speakers strongly condemned the recent terror attacks in different parts across the country.

Two electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two people were electrocuted at different villages under Bochaganj and Khansama upazilas of the district yesterday. In Bochaganj, a housewife died from electrocution while she was hanging her wet clothes over a live electric wire for drying in her yard at Atgaon village around 12:30pm. The deceased, Taslima Khatun, 50, was wife of Mokibur Rahman of the village. Away in Khansama upazila, a middle-aged man was electrocuted at Kachiniya village yesterday noon. The deceased, Aslamur Rahman, 55, was a resident of the village. Family members said Aslamur came in contact with an electric wire when he was repairing a table-fan. He died on way to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

PUST closed amid student protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The authorities yesterday closed Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) till September 30 following a violent protest over frequent power outage by a group of students on the campus. Students were asked to leave their dormitories by 5:00pm following an emergency meeting of academic council and administration of the university after the incident, Faruk Hossain Chowdhury, assistant director of PUST. Students of Bangabandhu Hall went on rampage due to

frequent power outage on the campus, sources said. Hundreds of students of the dormitory torched three vehicles and vandalized two others used by the teachers and officials of the university on the campus around 1:30am with a protest procession, said Proctor Awal Kabir Joy. Regarding frequent power outage on the campus, he said they informed the authorities concerned about the matter several times but yet to no effect. Contacted, Md Rafikul Islam, general manager of Pabna Palli Bidyut Samity, said load shedding occurred at the university and its adjacent areas as they get 25 to 30 megawatt power against 50 mw from the national grid.

Students block highway

UNB, Shariatpur

Students of Shariatpur Polytechnic Institute blocked Mongla-Chittagong highway yesterday, demanding resignation of its principal over misuse of power. They brought several allegations against their principal, including using an administrative building as his residence and an academic building as the administrative building illegally. They also accused him of misappropriating of college fund.

ATTACK ON JOURNOS 'Arrest culprits'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Speakers at a rally in the town yesterday demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the attackers of four people including two journalists. People from all walks of life including ethnic people joined the human chain programme under the banner of Prothom Alo Bandhu Sabha, Chapainawabganj unit. They also demanded withdrawal of a case filed against Anwar Hossain Dilu, staff correspondent of the Prothom Alo, by local businessman T Islam. The four came under an attack by the men of T Islam at Manikpara village in Nachole upazila on Friday when they went to collect information on a piece of disputed pond and land, said the speakers. The victims are Dilu, Abdur Rob Nahid, a correspondent of local daily the Gour Bangla, Aliuzzaman Kiron, vice president of Bandhu Sabha, and Bongo Pal Sardar, an indigenous man.

MALIGNING BANGABANDHU BNP leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police yesterday arrested a local union parishad chairman from Sadar upazila in connection with a case for allegedly tearing autobiography and portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Police arrested Abdur Razzak, chairman of Auliapur Union Parishad (UP), also Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) general secretary of the union unit, from in front of his office. Ashiqur Rahman, organising secretary of Sadar upazila unit of Jubo League, filed the case with Sadar Police Station in the morning. According to the case statement, Razzak tear up a portrait and a leaflet containing autobiography of Bangabandhu at his office in presence of the UP secretary on August 24. Razzak was produced before a court in the evening that sent him to jail, said Officer-in-Charge Redwanur Rahim of Sadar Police Station.

AL leader's market on school land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A ruling party man erected a market allegedly grabbing primary school land in Gouripur upazila of the district. Shah Rafiqul Islam Dipu, secretary of Awami League (AL) Gouripur Municipality unit, started building the market on Kaltapara Government Primary School land in 2015 and completed it in May this year. The market was inaugurated in June this year, school and local sources said. As the then headmaster Monofor Ali protested the building of the market, Dipu, also president of the school managing committee, transferred him to another primary school of Gouripur using his political influence, local people said. Assistant teacher Namita Rani Sarker was made the headmaster (in-charge) and Dipu built the market, they added. Of the eight shops in the market, four have been rented. Present headmaster Morsheda Khatun said she did not receive any rent from the market's shops till today. She said she did not inform the matter to the higher authorities as they know it. Morsheda joined the school on December 13 last year as its headmaster. Claiming that the land belonged to the Roads and Highways Department, not to the school, Dipu said, "I built the market after talking with officials of the department." He, however, kept mum when asked whether it is legal or illegal to construct a market on government land. "I invested around Tk 9 lakh to construct eight shops, and the market will be handed over to the school authority after I recover my investment," Dipu said. Md Johir Uddin, upazila primary education officer (in-charge), said neither Rafiqul nor the school authority took any permission for constructing the market. Gouripur Upazila Parishad Chairman Ahmed Taybur Rahman Hiron, also president of upazila primary education committee, said there was no scope to build commercial establishments on the school land. Dipu did not seek any permission from the upazila education committee, Hiron added. Marzina Akhter, Gouripur upazila nirbahi officer, said the administration would take necessary steps for the interest of the school.

4 shot in gunfight

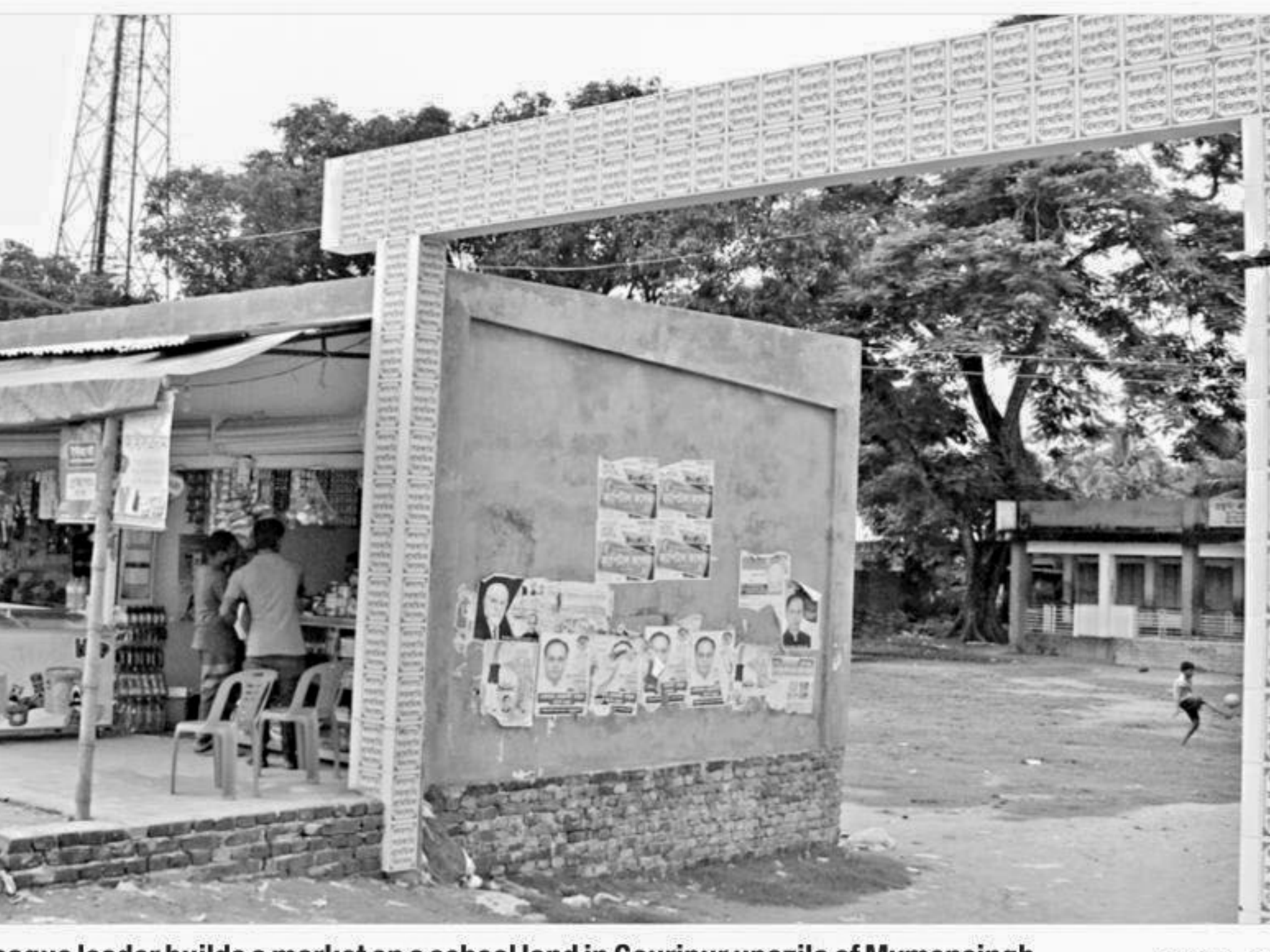
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

An alleged criminal and three policemen were injured in a gunfight between police and criminals in Kendratoli Swanirek area under Companyganj upazila of the district yesterday. Police recovered one pistol, three bullets and three knives from the spot. The injured are Abul Kalam Azad, and Sub-Inspector Saifuddin, constable Humayun and constable Joynal of Companyganj Police Station. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) AKM Zahurul Islam, said they arrested Azad, main accused in Jubo League leader Abu Sufian killing, from Double Mooring area in Chittagong on Friday. Azad was brought to Companyganj Police Station. Following the lead given by Azad, police went to the spot to recover arms. Seven to eight criminals, led by Azad's younger brother Abul Malek Yasin, attacked the policemen in Swanirek area and tried to snatch away Azad. The two sides locked in a gunfight and at one stage the criminals managed to flee. Azad, who was shot on the knee, could not escape. He was sent to Noakhali General Hospital for treatment. Azad is recovering after surgery, Dr Farid Uddin Chowdhury said. Azad, son of late Abdul Wahab of Char Parbati union, is accused in eight cases.

Boat race ends in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Final round of a week-long traditional boat race was held in the Brahmaputra River in Amlitola area under Melandah upazila on Friday. A total of 36 boats of different areas in the district took part in the race organised by a 101-member committee. Dasher Doa Nouka from Islampur upazila won the contest, said Abu Taher Thikadar, president of the committee.



A local Awami League leader builds a market on a school land in Gouripur upazila of Mymensingh.

PHOTO: STAR