

## Upazila roundup

## SYLHET

## 10 die of diarrhoea

April 8: Ten persons died of diarrhoea and measles in Deral and Madyanagar Sunamganj district. The dead includes mostly children. In Deral six children died of diarrhoea and another 150 are reportedly suffering from the disease.

In Madyanagar where measles and chicken pox have broken out four children were reported to have died following complications after they were attacked.

## One commits suicide

A youngman Lokus Mia allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at his Balaganj home recently. He was removed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

Meanwhile, according to an unofficial estimate, during the month of March, '91 unnatural deaths have registered a steep rise in greater Sylhet.

During the period, 29 people died due to murder, drowning, lightning, clashes and suicide. Of the 29 dead, 14 were from Sylhet, six from Maulvibazar, five from Habiganj and four from Sunamganj districts.

## SATKHIRA

## Hats, bazars in bad shape

From A Correspondent

April 8: At least 75 hats and bazars in seven upazilas of Satkhira district are now in a pitiable condition for want of proper maintenance.

The main problems that impede normal functioning of the market places include shortage of space, indiscriminate erection of sheds, bad drainage system and paucity of pure drinking water.

All hats and bazars except a few ones have not enough space to accommodate the buyers and sellers. The bazars have not been expanded with the growth of population. Besides, rampant erection of unauthorised shops has further narrowed the space. In the absence of drainage system in these bazars water logging on roads is a common scene.

## FARIDPUR

## Separate ministry for FP demanded

April 8: A procession was brought out by the District Family Planning Coordinators Parishad and Parikalpana Peshajebi Kendrio Samanya Parishad demanding a separate Ministry for family planning recently.

The participants of the procession submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur. The rally was held by the Deputy Director Mr. Rajayel Gomej.

## PABNA

## 153 patient flee from mental hospital

April 8: A total of 153 patients have fled from the Mental Hospital here in the last 15 months, officials said.

According to sources, the reason for their escape has been attributed to the poor and inadequate supply of food.

One attendant told UNB that the patients, although abnormal, were capable of distinguishing the quality and quantity of food.

Md. Subhan, Director of the hospital admitted to UNB that Taka 18 allocated for two meals each was not enough. He suggested the rate should be raised to Taka 30.

He, however, added that patients fleeing from the hospital were not a new phenomenon.

## Drought hits farming

Prolonged drought has severely affected boro, rabi and other crops in the district.

According to sources, boro paddy is usually harvested in the Bengali months of Chaitra and Baisakh in low-lying areas of Sadar, Iswardi, Vangura, Faridpur, Cahimohor, Sujanagar and Santha upazilas.

But the persistent drought has caused substantial damage to the standing crops.

Farmers said at least 25 to 35 per cent of Boro paddy has already been damaged due to drought.

On the other hand, lands prepared for cultivation of Aus and jute have been lying fallow for want of rain.

Betel nut, another essential crop of the district has already been damaged following the drought.

## BRAHMANBARIA

## A cruel husband

April 8: A cruel husband on his bid to kill his wife compelled her to drink acid in the name of medicine for a baby at village Kurinal under Nabinagar upazila here, police said on Friday, reports UNB.

Family sources said the victim Rehana Begum (24) was married four years back to Abdul Hamid of the same village. They had no child. Hamid took it granted that his wife Rehana has no capacity to bear child and he decided to kill her to pave the way for another marriage.

On the fateful day, March 31, Hamid bought a bottle of acid from a shop and told his wife that he bought excellent medicine which is effective for pregnancy. He requested her to take the medicine and Rehana complied. After this Rehana started a shrill cry that her stomach is burning and the relatives removed her to the local hospital in a critical condition.

Rehana is now fighting for life at Nabinagar health complex while Hamid remained absconding since the incident.

## NOAKHALI

## 24 die of diarrhoea

April 8: Diarrhoeal diseases claimed 24 lives and attacked about 1000 others six in upazilas of the district during the last three months.

Civil Surgeon told UNB that the situation was better than previous years. Ninety-one medical teams are now working throughout the district to curb the menace and medicine reserve is also satisfactory, he added.

Meanwhile, mosquito menace has been causing suffering to the town dwellers.

## SHARIATPUR

## BADC to sell 92000 kg jute seeds

From A Correspondent

April 8: Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has taken up a programme to sell 92,000 kgs of jute seeds to the farmers for the greater district of Faridpur in the current financial year.

Official sources said of the total, 25,800 kgs will be Faridpur, 11,600 kgs in Rajbari, 11,590 kgs in Madaripur, 7,100 kgs in Shariatpur, 7,850 kgs in Gopalganj and 23,750 kgs in zonal seeds store.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks will disburse necessary loans among the farmers to make the jute cultivation programme a success, it is learnt.

## BHOLA

## Female students suffer for want of hostel

April 8: Female education is being seriously hampered in the town due to absence of hostel facilities for the girl students, reports UNB.

The district town which has three colleges—two government and one non-government for higher education, one girls high school, five high schools for co-education with about 4000 girls students. But there are no residential accommodation facilities for them.

The guardians send their wards to the town for higher and better education in these institutions. But they are facing difficulties due to absence of hostel facilities.

Most of the guardians have to arrange accommodation for their daughters in their relations houses.

People of the district have demanded early construction of two hostels for girl students without further delay in the town.

## MYMENSINGH

## One gets life-term for killing wife

April 8: District and Sessions Judge here sentenced one person to life term on charge of killing his wife. Court sources said on Saturday, reports UNB.

The court also fined him Taka 10,000, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three years more.

According to prosecution story, Rishikesh Devnath of Muktagacha upazila killed his wife Lakshmi Rani following a family feud in July, 1990.

Police after investigation issued charge sheet against the accused Rishikesh.



Children playing in a shallow canal to get rid of heat wave at a village in Narsingdi district.

— Star photo

## Women smugglers active on Jessore-Benapole highway

From A Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 8: The number of women smugglers has increased considerably on Jessore-Benapole highway.

Thousands of women carry smuggled goods from Jessore-Benapole with the help of transport workers of the buses ply on the route.

About 82 big size passenger buses leave for Benapole from Jessore railgate and those buses return with passengers carrying 4000 women smugglers every day.

It is alleged that these women smugglers carry polyester other goods from Jessore and return back from Benapole with Indian goods like sarees, blouse piece, fruits and cosmetics in exchange of Bangladeshi goods with the help of transport workers. The smuggled goods are kept hidden in the concealed chambers of the buses specially made for the purpose. The concealed chambers have been made in chaises with a technique to carry smuggled goods.

It is gathered that smuggled goods like VCPs are also transported in the concealed chambers of the buses under special arrangement with the bus owners and drivers, conductors and helpers. The carrying cost is shared by them proportionately.

Due to heavy rush of women passengers, the normal passengers of the buses face trouble.

Tulatala Bazar of Jessore was established in 1980 for selling Indian goods. The market was expanded to Chechra, Royparam, Najib Shankarpur and Cola Patty. The number of women smugglers increased soon with the establishment of those markets.

It is also learnt that most women smugglers are divorcees. Narcotics are also being sold in the area resulting in a rising trend of crimes. Powerful richmen are engaged in the smuggling, it is alleged.

The border areas of Alamdanga, Mirpur and Harinakundu Police Stations of Chuadanga, Kushtia and Jhenidah districts have become paradises of miscreants who used to commit anti-social activities.

Recently two persons, Nazim of Vodua and Samir of Bademajua of Alamdanga U. Z. were killed by the miscreants at Jamjani Bazar in broad daylight. An anti-crime meeting was held on March 13 at Jamjani High School premises under the Chairmanship of Mr. Badal Rashid, Chairman, Alamdanga U. Z. P. in connection with the murder.

Mr. Shodudul Huq, D. I. G. Khulna was present at the meeting who said that police could not check the crime alone without help of the public. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Mr. Sayed Hafiz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia, Mr. A. Rahim Khan, S. P. Chuadanga and Mr. Anwar Hossain, S. P. Meherpur and Mr. Md. Aminul Islam Khan, A. D. C. (Gen) Chuadanga.

The S. P. of Chuadanga in his address said that 'we want a crime free society. The criminals of the area should be rehabilitated if they surrender within ten days'. He declared that a Police Camp will be set-up here.

A large number of people of the area was present in the meeting.

## Notes from Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Apr 8: Diarrhoeal disease has claimed one life at village Fulshuti under Nagarkanda upazila of the District. The epidemic has reportedly affected 300 persons in Nagarkanda and Faridpur Sadar upazila. About 100 patients have so far taken first aid at Faridpur Sadar Hospital.

It is reported that the water supplied by Faridpur Pourashava is found contaminated in some areas of the town. The iron contents in drinking water is high in almost all the places of Faridpur district.

It is also reported that the scarcity of oral saline added to the sufferings of the affected people.

## World Health Day observed

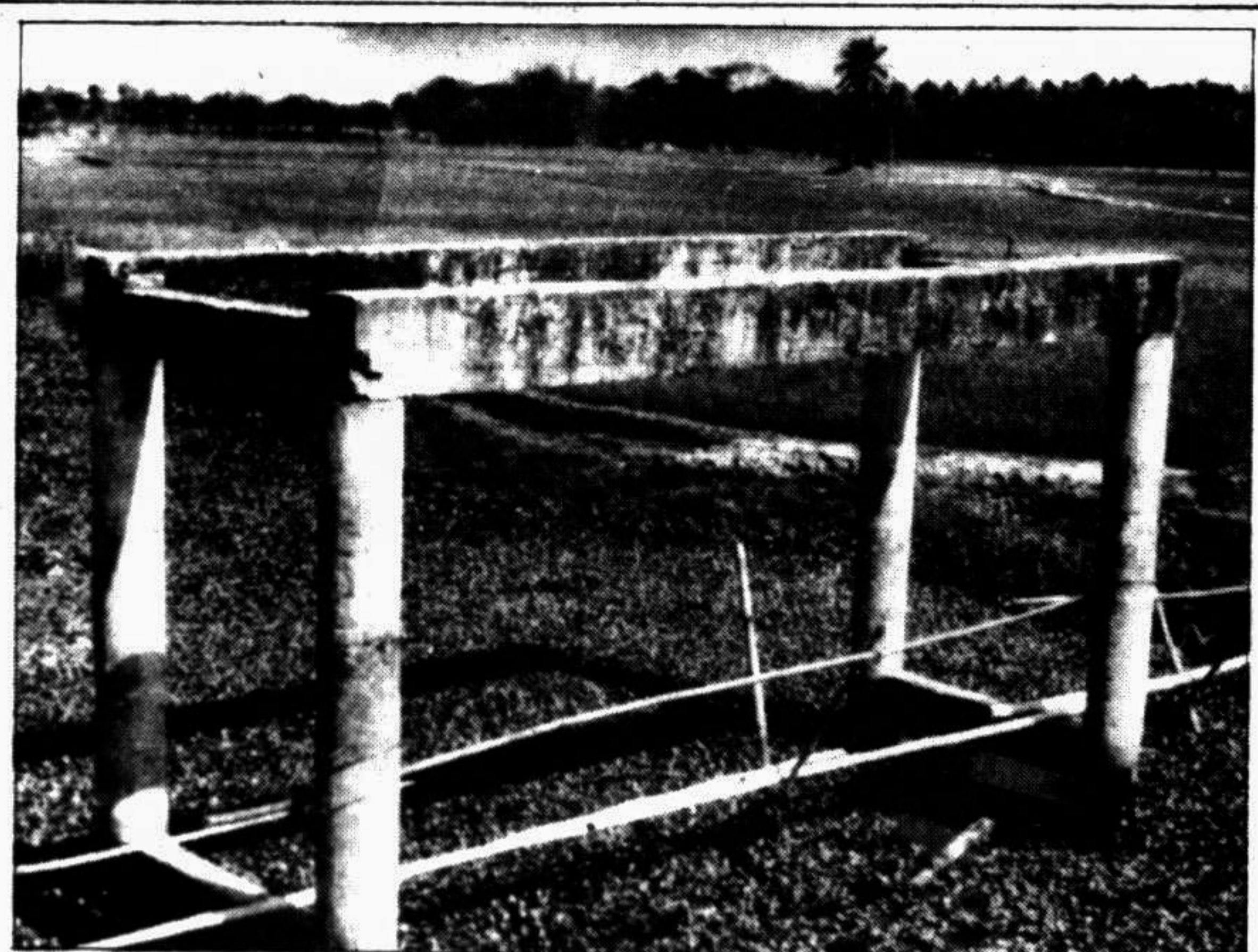
The 43rd World Health Day was observed here with much enthusiasm. A children's rally was held and a competition of the health of the children was arranged in Faridpur town in this connection. The competition was arranged by Faridpur Pourashava and the chairman of the Pourashava Mr. Rakiuddin Ahmed gave away the prizes among the winners.

## Watermelons

A bumper production of water melons in villages Joari More, Char Joar, Keshab Nagar, Dayarampur of Faridpur Sadar Upazila and Devinagar, Bhasan Dhang, Shantoshi and Narashinghpur of Nagarkanda upazila of Faridpur District is being recorded this year. It is reported that in last 15 days about 250 trucks of water melons have been supplied to different areas of the country including the capital city of Dhaka. The farmers told this correspondent if they get the supply of fertilizer and insecticide the production will further increase in future.

## Property worth Tk 3 cr gutted in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, Apr 8: Property worth about Taka three crore was damaged when a devastating fire broke out in a market in the town here on Thursday. Police and fire service sources said, reports UNB.



SHARIATPUR: A bridge lying incomplete near Shariatpur Bazar to the utter inconvenience of the local people.

— Star photo

## Number of TB patients on rise Medicare absent in clinic

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, April 8: The number of T. B. patients is increasing alarmingly in Kishoreganj district. The only T. B. clinic in the district is beset with enormous problems causing much sufferings to the increasing number of patients.

The clinic established in 1964 is extending treatment facilities to the patients. Normally 10 to 15 patients visit the hospital every day and every year 1500 to 2000 new T. B. patients are admitted to the clinic, who get outdoor treatment on fixed dates subject to prior appointment.

According to the sources, the overall environment of the clinic is not at all hygienic. Toilets and urinals remain dirty as they are not cleaned regularly. Water supply is totally absent.

Besides, in absence of boundary wall a section of miscreants of the locality engage themselves in anti-social activities in the clinic compound after office hours.

Moreover, cattlehead including goats move freely which are left by the neighbouring people for grazing in

the clinic compound polluting the atmosphere and creating health hazard to the people of the town.

There are 14 staff members including one medical officer and one junior consultant. Two posts L. H.V. are lying vacant since long.

Residential facilities are not provided to the staff. On the other hand roof of the clinic is in a very deplorable condition which has aggravated the situation.

No steps have yet been taken to mitigate the sufferings. The junior consultant in-charge and some local people stressed the need for improving the environment of the clinic area.

## Raw skin

Storing and processing of raw skins of the animals in residential areas of Bhairab Pourashava are posing health hazard extreme sufferings to the people and the pedestrians.

When the raw skins are salted in the open spaces adjacent to residential houses and roads, bad odour emits all

along in the areas causing health hazard to the people of the town.

The situation turns worse every year after Eid-ul-Azha when the unscrupulous skin dealers become active in the collection of the raw skins from different areas and process the same for months together. Even they have constructed sheds for this purpose in residential areas, with least consideration of the public annoyance and sufferings.

The people of the town urged the concerned authorities to ensure appropriate steps to stop these activities for the sake of public health and sanitation.

## Smuggled goods recovered

SHIBALAYA (Manikganj), Mar 29: Indian sarees, lungies, suitings, handkerchief and other goods worth about Tk six lakh were seized from two buses on Dhaka-Aricha Highway and Aricha ghat last week, reports UNB.

## 7 lakh hectares to be put under Aus farming

From Our Correspondent

THAKURGAON, Apr 8: Under the programme of Intensive Summer Crop Production, a total of 6 lakh 84 thousand seven hundred hectares of land will be brought under aus cultivation in 16 northern districts of the country, it is learnt.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, out of the total land, high yielding variety in 1,68,347 hectares local variety in 5,16,287 hectares and 70 hectares will be brought under pajjam variety cultivation.

The district wise breakup is, Thakurgaon 27940 hectares, Panchagarh-31607, Dinajpur-62927, Nilphamary-24907, Lalmonirhat-90800, Kurigram-85200, Gabandha-24300, Rangpur-67616, Strajganj-48845, Pabna-53650,

Joypurhat-12150, Bogra-12376, Natore-20705, C Nowabganj-43880, Naogaon 34561 and Rajshahi-43428 hectares of land.

To make the ISCP programme a success, requisite measures have been taken up by the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation for adequate supply of seed, pesticide and chemical fertilizers and schedule banks will provide credit facilities to the farmers.

It is also learnt that the Agriculture Extension Department has taken up scheme for demonstrating 614 seed plots measuring an area of 20 acre each in all 16 districts under Rajshahi Division to introduce BR-20 and BR-21 variety of aus paddy.

## Poor medical facilities in northern zone

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Apr 8: As many as 16 districts in the northern zone of the country have poor medical facilities for the vast multitude of people. Here the doctor-to-people ratio is one doctor—17,500 people. As regards hospital facilities, available statistics suggest that there is one bed for every one lakh of the population in the region.

About 250 posts of doctors in the northern districts remain vacant. The number of upazila health complexes in other in the districts are 108. Health complexes in other

upazilas are under construction. The health complexes at upazila level are beset with problems. Medicines, equipment and X-ray machines are quite inadequate.

Only 431 unions out of 12,088 unions in the northern zone have union health centres. Although one dental surgeon and one eye specialist have been working in the general hospitals in the districts, modern equipment are in short supply. As a result, patients are deprived of proper treatment.

## Jamalpur rly junction needs renovation

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, April 8: Jamalpur Railway Junction needs repair and renovation immediately to alleviate the sufferings of passengers.

Due to absence of repair and reconstruction work, bricks of both the platforms have been washed away by rain water. Numerous potholes have also developed on the platforms and water remains stagnant after slight rainfall creating utter inconvenience to the passengers.

There are no third class waiting rooms in the junction and the passengers either re-

main standing on the platform or move restlessly or occupy first and second class waiting rooms.

Acute shortage of furniture in first and second class waiting rooms causes much sufferings to the passengers.

There is neither toilets nor urinals attached to the platforms. The only toilet situated in the upper class waiting room can hardly cope with the need.

Tea stalls and other shops occupy the major portion of the platform hindering free movement of the passengers.

## Smuggled goods worth Tk 16 lakh seized

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 8: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized smuggled goods worth about Taka 16 lakh while being smuggled into and out of the country, reports UNB.

According to sources, contraband recently smuggled into the country included cattle head, bicycles, sarees, cloth, sugar, cosmetics, yarn, dry chilly, salt and lentil.

The out-going goods included polyester, VCRs and VCPs and copper wire.

Twenty seven cases were registered with different police stations while seized goods handed over to local customs authorities.

Meanwhile, BDR in separate raids in Comilla district recently seized Indian goods worth about Taka 45.69 lakh and arrested six smugglers from different trains.

The goods including sarees, lungis and spices were being smuggled through trains allegedly in collusion with some dishonest railway staff.

Acting on tips off BDR patrol party recently recovered 7,165 pieces of Indian sarees and 80 pieces of lungis worth about Tk 26 lakh from Chittagong bound Turna Nishitha train recently.

Patrolling BDR jawans also seized Indian sarees, turmeric, chillies and hides and skins

## Work on 87 schemes in progress

RANGPUR, April 8: Work on 87 schemes under Test Relief Programme is going on in full swing in eight upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

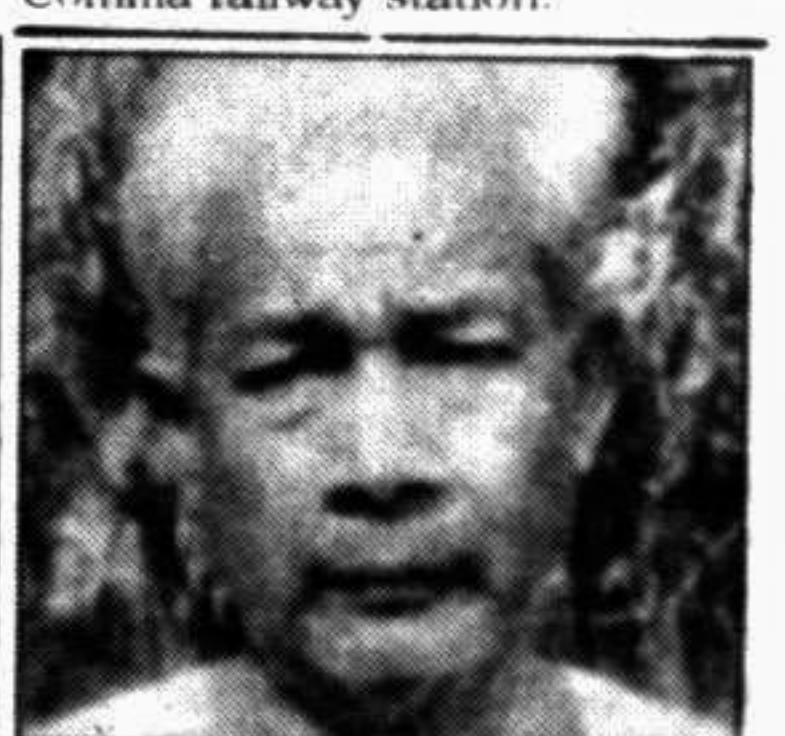
Officials said of the total, 49 are WFP schemes and the rest 38 are CARE sponsored which scheduled to be executed before this dry season was out.

It is learnt that 3,268 metric tons of wheat has been allotted for execution of the WFP schemes and 2,094 tons for the CARE schemes.

The Local Government Engineering Bureau is executing 13 schemes, Bangladesh Water Development Board—one and 73 schemes are being executed by the upazila administration.

from Dhaka bound Surma rail train at Brahmanbaria railway station on last Wednesday.

They also recovered about 4000 kgs of sugar, valued at Taka one lakh, from Noakhali Express train the same day at Comilla railway station.



Woes of a teacher

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Apr 8: Basanta Kumar Das who was a teacher of Government High School did not get his lump grant, gratuity, pension and leave salary for over 7 years due to retardation.

Basanta Kumar Das (64), of village Kamarpara in Dasherhat under Kurigram Sadar Upazila, an assistant teacher of Kurigram government Multilateral High School retired from service in November, 1983. Since then he has been going from pillar to post of Rajshahi and Rangpur DDPI office and Accounts office for his dues but in vain.

The officials expressed their reluctance to do the needful without bride, it is alleged.

It may be mentioned here that Mr. Das, with 8 family members have been passing days in acute hardship and frustration.

Mr. Das started his career as a teacher in 1947. He has no other source of income. His children left the educational institutions due to poverty. Even his paternal residential property of 45.5 decimals of land have been grabbed by some influential people of the village through fake recording, it is alleged (vide case No-46/86 of Kurigram Judge Court).