

Upazila roundup

MEHERPUR

Smuggling of edible oil rampant

From A Correspondent
April 22: Smuggling of edible and coconut oil have since been increased in the border areas of Meherpur and Chuadanga districts. It is reported that edible oil like palm, soybean, mustard and coconut oil are being smuggled out from the country every day by hundreds of bicycles and hackneycarts. It is also learnt that new grocery shops have been established in the border areas of Meherpur and Chuadanga districts with a view to smuggling out of edible oil. Palm soybean and coconut oil are imported from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia. The home markets may face a serious setback in controlling the price hike of the essential commodities if the smuggling is not stopped.

MAULVI BAZAR

Street lights inadequate

From Our Correspondent
April 22: Lack of adequate number of street lights in Maulvi Bazar district town is causing much inconveniences to the dwellers after sundown. Most of the light posts have no bulbs creating problems to pedestrians as well as vehicular movement. The residents alleged that the Pura authority despite repeated complaints took no initiative in this respect. Guardians representatives election of Barakha College governing body was held recently at college campus. Polling was held for two posts of guardian members. Mr Montazir Ali and Mr Roiful Hoque were elected to the posts.

BHOLA

Homoeopaths make medicines without licence

From Our Correspondent
April 22: Some homoeopathic doctors in seven upazilas Bhola district are allegedly manufacturing medicines without licence. The medicines are being manufactured not in an unhygienic way. The medicines include syrups, ointment, powder for various diseases. People complained of adverse effects on the users and called for curbing the production of substandard homoeopathic medicines in an unlawful manner.

HABIGANJ

Tornado victims need relief

From Our Correspondent
April 22: The affected people of all the six unions of Lakhai upazila here are in desperate need for relief materials. The unions were consecutively hit by tornado and torrential rains on April 2, 3, 4 and 10. A large number of dwellings, government and semi-government offices, schools and markets were damaged by the calamities, the upazila chairman in a press release said. Standing crops on more than 10,000 acres were also destroyed due to lack of embankment to stop onrush of flood water from the river Khawai, the source added. Government relief sent so far to the affected areas has also been quite inadequate, residents alleged.

NARAIL

54 fail to appear at Dakhil exam

From Our Correspondent
April 22: A total of 54 candidates of Lohagara Al-Jamiatul Islamia Dakhil Madrasa in the district could not appear at the Dakhil examination for lack of admit cards. The examination started Saturday, reports UNB. Moulana Abdul Khalek, Superintendent of the Madrasa allegedly realised Taka 1.08 lakh at the rate of Taka 1,000 to 2,500 from each candidate as centre fee, examination and other charges. The ill-fated candidates when demanded admit cards Friday, the Superintendent assured them that he would be present at the examination centre at 9.30 am on Saturday along with the Deputy Commissioner and then the cards would be supplied to them. The examinees waited for six hours at the Shahbad Mazidia Madrasa centre but the Superintendent did not turn up. The matter was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner. It is learnt that treatment of about 60 per cent of below nine-year-old children has not been possible due to scarcity of necessary medicines in the hospitals. According to local physicians, malnutrition in such a large-scale is caused by vitamin deficiency and unwholesome food taken by children. The upazila hospitals in these areas are not equipped with necessary medicines to help remove the vitamin deficiency of such a large percentage of children.

C'NAWABGANJ

World Health Day observed

From Our Correspondent
April 22: World Health Day was observed here in a befitting manner. A seminar was arranged at the local Sahid Satu Hall on the occasion. The seminar was presided over by the district civil surgeon Abdul Rouf and addressed among other by Dr. Hasan Ali, Dr. Mesbahul Haq, District Health Education Officers Abdus Salam and others. D.C. and A.D.C. Chapai Nawabganj were the chief and special guest respectively in the seminar.

PABNA

Best school teacher

From Our Correspondent
April 22: Mrs. Rehana Khanam, Headmistress of Government Girls High School, Pabna has been adjudged as the best high school teacher of Rajshahi Division for the year 1990. Mrs. Khanam is engaged in teaching profession for 15 years. She was the student of Chandpur Lady Pratim Girls High School, Quamrunnessa Government Girls High School and Chittagong Government Girls College at primary, secondary and degree level respectively. She obtained her M.A. and B.Ed. degree from Chittagong University. She is the daughter of Dr. Makbul Rahman of Mirpur, Dhaka.

BARISAL

1840 tubewells out of order

From Our Correspondent
In all 1,840 tubewells are out of order in five southern districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bhola and Bogura, according to Public Health and Engineering Department. The district wise break up is: Barisal 498 tubewells, Jhalakathi 504, Pirojpur 507, Bhola 138 and 192 tubewells in Bogura district. According to PHE there are 7 lakh 83 thousand tubewells in the country.

MADARIPUR

Bus stands need waiting sheds

From Our Correspondent
April 22: Bus passengers have been facing problems due to absence of waiting sheds at different bus stands here. Sufferers complained that they are forced to wait for hours together under sky at these bus stands. Women and children passengers are the worst sufferers. Local people have called upon the authorities concerned to take immediate measures for construction of sheds for the bus passengers.

KUSHITIA

Children suffer from malnutrition

From Our Correspondent
April 22: Children in six upazilas of the district have been suffering from malnutrition, glaucoma, jaundice and intestinal diseases for want of proper food, medicine and treatment facilities, reports UNB. It is learnt that treatment of about 60 per cent of below nine-year-old children has not been possible due to scarcity of necessary medicines in the hospitals. According to local physicians, malnutrition in such a large-scale is caused by vitamin deficiency and unwholesome food taken by children. The upazila hospitals in these areas are not equipped with necessary medicines to help remove the vitamin deficiency of such a large percentage of children.

KURIGRAM

'Shimul Tula' on the wane

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, Apr 22: Production of cotton known as 'Shimul Tula' has decreased and the cotton-trees in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts of Rangpur zone are being destroyed due to lack of proper orientation and maintenance. The region was once rich in cotton production. There were countless 'Shimul Tula' trees in the vast fallow land of the region. But most of these trees are decaying and cotton yield is now scanty. Consequently, the prices of 'Shimul Tula' has increased. The cotton is widely used by each and every family in making pillows, bolster and mattress. Shimul Tula can easily change economic condition of a family. A single tree produces at least five maunds of cotton every year and its market value is nearly Taka 10,000. The experienced circle opined that the people should be given advice in respect of Shimul Tula production methodically and maintenance of cotton trees. The government should take initiative to expand cotton trees under expert guidance in order to increase cotton yield.

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ

Indian milkmen unleash reign of terror

From Our Correspondent
CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Apr 22: Twelve persons were killed and some 96 injured in the armed attack of Indian milkmen (ghost) in some frontier villages of Chapai Nawabganj district during the last 17 years since 1975, says a Press release of BDR 31 battalion. The Press release said that the Indian milkmen had been continuing disturbance since 1975 in the villages of Shialmara, Balladighi, Kamalpur, Pirozpur, Daulatbari, Chalkpara, under Shibganj upazila. In the early days the rowdism was confined in stealing and petty robbery but later it turned into armed attack in broad daylight. They enter into the Bangladeshi territory with cattle and graze them in crop fields. When the Bangladeshis protest it they fall on them with bthai arms. So far such kinds of armed attack killed 12 Bangladeshis nationals and wounded 96, many of them seriously. Many of the injured have become crippled. They carried away 980 cattlehead and 1230 goats from the Bangladeshi land.



Bumper potato production has been reported this year. Due to meagre storage facility this farmer is selling his produce at throw away price in Chandpur. — Star photo

Sugarcane drying up in field as mills face crushing problems

From A Correspondent
DARSANA, Apr 22: Sugarcane, the annual Cash Crop is now being dried up in the field with the beginning of summer. Standing sugarcane is also being damaged by stray animals. Standing sugarcane on 1,84,000 acres of land await crushing. The sugar mills has a capacity to crush 1,150 M. T. of cane per day. With the beginning of summer the standing sugarcane of about five thousand acres of land is being dried up in the field causing a heavy financial loss to the growers. It is learnt that the crushing will continue till June this year. The cane growers of the district began manufacturing of molasses after two months of the crushing season of the mills in pursuance of the restriction imposed by the government. The cane growers of the district prefer selling of the crop to mills to have a good profit than crushing by hand and by power crushers. Price of molasses has come down to Taka 12 per kg. while the sugar sells at Taka 24. The cane growers of the district have been disappointed to cane farming because of related problems and financial loss. Due to rail transport problem cane purchasing has been suspended from Alamdanga, Munshiganj, Mominpur, Chuadanga, Jairampur, and Ansarbaria purchasing centres. The district administration has requested G.M. of Carew & Co. Darsana to make an arrangement for selling standing sugarcane to neighbouring sugar mills at Mobarakganj and Jagati. Mobarakganj Sugar Mills management has agreed to take up 40,000 maunds of sugar while the Jagati Mills management has expressed their inability. Standing Sugarcane is also being used as fuel wood in the brick manufacturing kilns in Alamdanga U.Z. of the district.

Gorai now almost dead GK project threatened

KUSHTIA, Apr 22: The Gorai, a dreadful river for its turbulence in the past, is now almost dead as it can easily be waded across and at times without putting off shoes, reports UNB. Innumerable shoals have surfaced in this lean season making navigability impossible. The ferry services remained suspended from the onset of the dry season. The river Gorai is the tributary of the river Ganges whose flow of water has come to its lowest ebb due to unilateral withdrawal of its water at Farakka. The natural and normal flow which had been nearly 70,000 cuses of water before the commissioning of Farakka Barrage, has come down now to an all time low to about 14,000 cuses. If this situation is allowed to continue every year, the vast area along its banks will come under the process of desertification destroying the ecological balance in the northern and southern parts of Bangladesh, geologists opined. It will also endanger the Ganges-Kobadak Project, the biggest irrigation project of the country which is completely dependent on water from the river Ganges, according to a project Engineer. Experts said the process of desertification has already started. The pastures which were green have been turning grey. The worst-hit is the G-K Project area of which the main pump house is threatened with closure, the mouth of the intake channel has been silted up and the authority has to spend Taka one lakh per day on dredging. Three pumps which have to be kept operational for irrigating 3.5 lakh acres of land in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura and Jessore districts. If the pumps cannot be operated due to non-availability of water, the entire area will dry up resulting in massive crop loss, rise in prices of food-grains, loss of navigability and ecological balance, they added. The people of Kumarkhali and Khoksa upazilas who depend on river transportation for their daily necessities from Kushtia and other parts of the country are now finding local markets almost empty.

Stolen wire recovered

The Kotwali police recovered stolen electric wire worth Taka 11 lakh and arrested 11 persons in this connection recently from Sagardighar area of the town. A case has been registered with Kotwali police in this connection and the arrested persons have been sent to the court.

Two brothers killed in road accident

PABNA, Apr 22: Two brothers were killed in a road accident on Pabna-Ishwardi highway Saturday, police here said, reports UNB. The victims were identified as Mahbul Alam (28) and Asaduzzaman (25) of Bheramh upazila in Kushtia district. Witnesses said the brothers were on a motor-bike when a Dhaka bound coach (Dhaka Metro Cha-5984) dashed them from behind killing them on the spot near Tetultala bazar area. Police seized the bus but the driver and helper, however, managed to escape. A case was filed in this connection.

Crimes galore

NARAIL, Apr 22: Two people were killed and several others injured following a clash between two rival groups over paddy harvesting in Pachuria village of Lohagara upazila Friday, police here said, reports UNB. The victim Abu Sharif (55), died on the spot while Syed Mannan Ali (32) succumbed in Lohagara hospital. Hemela Bibi along with several others were admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. Tension is prevailing in the area. A case has been filed in this connection. Kishoreganj A report from Kishoreganj adds: Two people were killed in two separate incidents in the district during the last few days, police said here today. According to family sources, the unknown assailants entered the house of Montazuddin (45) of Bhatgaon village under Sadar upazila by cutting its fence and stabbed him to death while he was sleeping in his room Friday. Police took three people to custody in connection with the murder and vigorous investigation is going on. In another incident, police recovered the body of Marfat Ali (30), of Chapai Nawabganj village in Hossainpur upazila from a pond on the same day. Family sources said the victim went out of his house Thursday night and did not return. The cause of the murder could not be ascertained. Two separate cases were filed in this connection. Farmers yet to get compensation for acquired land From A Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Apr 22: The farmers of Kasipur upazila in Sirajganj district did not get compensation money from Water Development Board even after three years. It is learnt that Sirajganj O & M Division or Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in 1988 acquired 100 acres of land at Sonali Basar and Khudbandi in Kasipur upazila.

Political scene

BNP MPs accorded reception

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Apr 22: Kishoreganj district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) accorded a reception in honour of five MPs of the BNP who were elected in the last parliamentary election at local Shilpakala Academy Saturday afternoon. The MPs are A.B.M. Zahidul Hoque, Major (Rtd) Akhteruzzaman Ranjan, Moulana Ataur Rahman Khan, Md. Amiruddin Ahmed and Al-haj Dr Abdul Latif Bhuiyan. The reception meeting was presided over by local BNP leader Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan and it was addressed by Mashud Helali, Advocate Fazlul Kabir, Ali Mohammad, Amiruzzaman, Khalad Saifullah Shohel and Jahangir Mollah. Addressing the meeting Akhteruzzaman MP said the aim of the BNP government was to establish a corruption free society based on social equity and justice to all.

JCD anti-smuggling squad

Our Jhenidah Correspondent adds: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) anti-smuggling squad recovered two bags containing 328 pieces of Indian sarrees at Kaliganj bus stand of Jhenidah district on April 8, police said. The sarrees worth about Taka 50,000 were unclaimed and handed over to Kaliganj police. A general diary was recovered in this connection with Kaliganj police station. Kaliganj is the den of smugglers. C'nawabgonj Our Chapai Nawabganj Correspondent writes: Chapai Nawabganj district Jatiya Party arranged a rally here at Shahid Satu Hall recently demanding release of the former President Ershad. The rally was presided over by Ruhul Amin and addressed by Advocate Ekram Hossain, Abdus Samad, Abdul Hannan and others.

Fire havoc in dists Property worth Tk 27 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Apr 22: Properties worth about Taka 15 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out Friday in Charkawna Nayapara village under Pakundia upazila, police and fire brigade sources here said. It is gathered that the fire originated from the kitchen of Abdul Matin Miah at 2 pm and rendered 24 families homeless. At least 112 houses including valuables were burnt to ashes as the villagers could not control the fire. Witnesses said delay in informing Fire Brigade increased the extent of damages. The Fire Brigade told this correspondent that they could have brought the fire under control sooner had the information reached them earlier. Local MP A.B.M. Zahidul Hoque, Upazila Chairman Md. Akhteruzzaman Khukan, U.N.O and Deputy Commissioner Kazi Nasirul Islam and Additional Superintendent of Police S.M. Golam Mostafa visited the affected area. Some relief goods and cash Taka 12 thousand were distributed on behalf of the district administration and Upazila Parishad among the affected people. The MP and DC assured necessary help for the distressed people and also requested the Relief Ministry to allocate relief materials for the affected people.

Stolen wire recovered

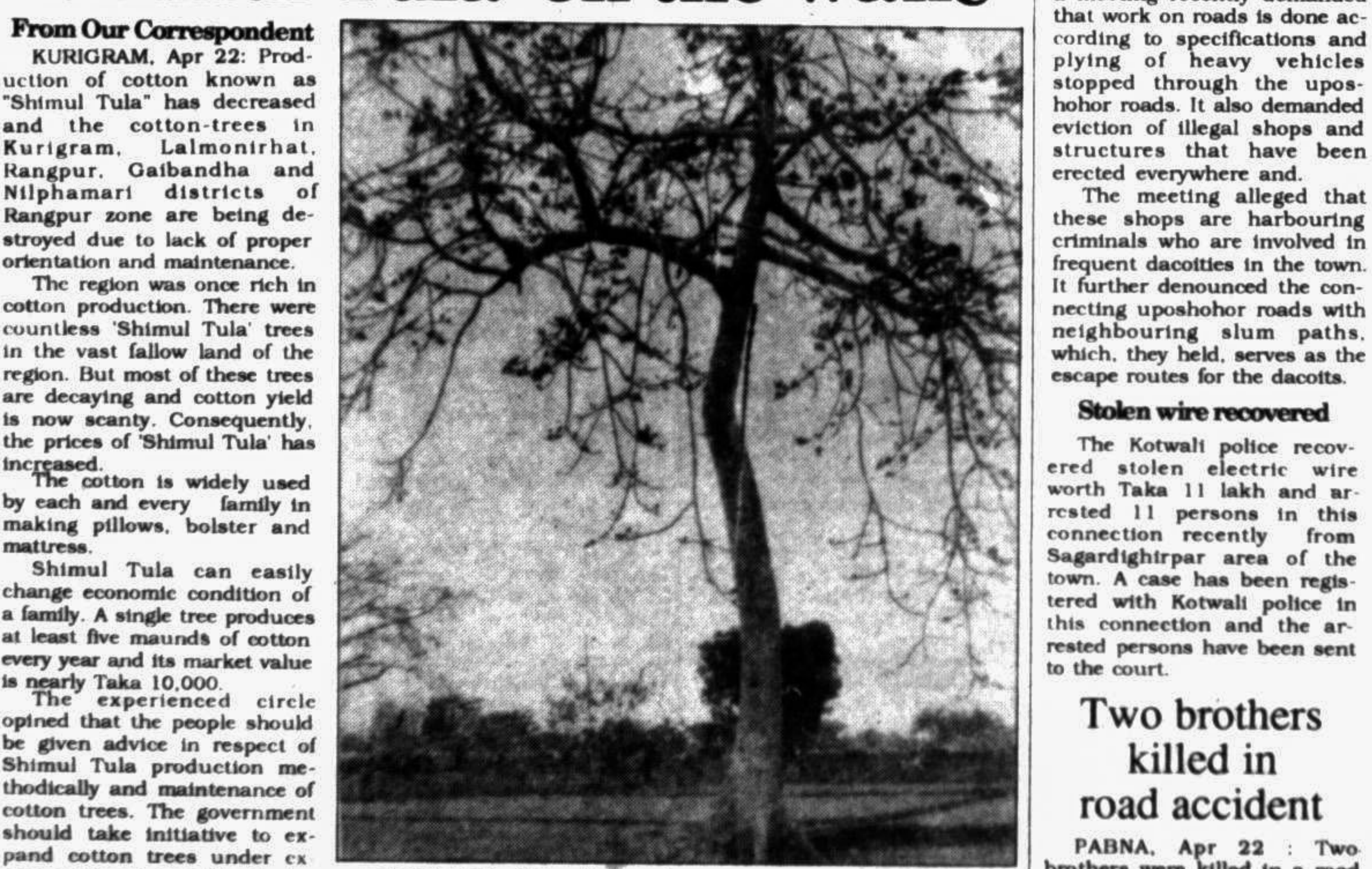
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KURIGRAM: Shimul tree at new town area. — Star photo