

Upazila roundup

MANIKGANJ
Boat dacoity in Padma
June 22 : Armed pirates looted valuables worth about Taka 20,000 from a fishing boat in the river Padma near Char Daulatdia here on Thursday, reports UNB.
The dacoits swooped on the fishermen while they were fishing in the river and decamped with valuables including their catches and nets.
A case has been filed with local police in this connection. Local fishermen alleged the pirates are active in the area for a long time due to police inaction. In spite of repeated complaints to the district administration no step has yet been taken to nab the 'known' pirates due to mysterious reasons, they added.

Erosion renders 1000 homeless
About 1,000 people were rendered homeless in Daulatdia and Haripur upazilas as rampaging rivers Padma and Jamuna engulfed fresh areas over the last two days.
According to official sources, standing crops on about 310 acres were devoured by the river Jamuna and threatened the existence of Bagutiahat.
The river Jamuna raised by about 10 cm over the period, Water Development Board sources here said.

Daulatdia Upazila Chairman said the river so far ate up 210 houses in 10 villages of Bagutia, Bachamara, Charkar and Zionpur unions leaving at least 680 people homeless.
Besides, about 100 houses were washed away by the river Padma in Gopinathpur, Azimnagar, Dulura, Boyra and Ramkrishnapur unions of Haripur upazilas making 5,000 people shelterless during the same period.

BARISAL
2,500 tons wheat for rural uplift projects
June 22 : Government has sanctioned 2,500 metric tons of Wheat for the implementation of name rural uplift projects in six southern districts, reports UNB.
The projects taken up under post-cyclone rehabilitation programme would cover repair of kutchra roads and educational institutions, and cleaning of bushes in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Jhalakhati and Projpur districts.
Under the programme, 140 power tillers would also be distributed free of cost among the cyclone and tidal surge affected farmers of the districts, sources said.

KHULNA
Tk 26.58 crore allocated for livestock project
June 22 : Government has allocated an amount of taka 26.58 crore for the implementation of second livestock development project in the district, reports UNB.
According to official sources, the project which includes construction of livestock offices and boundary walls has already completed 42 livestock buildings in the district while work on 14 others is going on in full swing.
Besides, boundary walls of these offices in 65 upazilas are also nearing completion, the sources added.
The project has been implementing on priority basis on backdrop of the April 29 devastating cyclone and tidal surge in which the country's livestock suffered a heavy loss, it is learnt.

CHUADANGA
Diarrhoea claims 22 lives
June 22 : Diarrhoea claimed at least 22 lives and attacked 2000 others in four upazilas of the district over the last two months, reports UNB.
The affected upazilas are Sadar, Damurbuda, Alamdanga and Jibranagar.
The worst affected villages are Gargari, Nardah, Chandpur, Jhehala, Locnathpur and Balgach.
Scarcity of drinking water and unhygienic condition of the villagers were the main causes behind the outbreak of the disease, hospital sources said.
Local people have urged the authorities to despatch medical teams to the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease.

MAGURA
Property worth Tk 4 lakh gutted
June 22 : Property worth about Taka four lakh was completely gutted in a devastating fire at Langolband Bazar in Sreepur upazila here, reports UNB.
Witnesses said the fire originating from a tea stall soon engulfed the adjacent areas and charred four shops including belongings recently.
Local people rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control by spraying water and sand. Shopkeepers of the bazar alleged that the fire spread to the adjacent areas in the absence of fire service facilities.
They urged the authorities to set up fire service station in the upazila immediately.
In an attempt to improve health and sanitation, Public Health Engineering Department distributed 2,200 low cost sanitary latrines in four upazilas here during this fiscal year.
According to official sources, 550 latrines were distributed in Sadar, 550 in Sreepur, 550 in Salikha and the rest 550 in Mollahmadpur upazilas.
With the distribution of the latrines at fair prices the villagers have been showing increasing interest in purchasing the same.
Meanwhile, the department has reinstalled 172 hand tubewells in the four upazilas during the period to ensure supply of pure water.

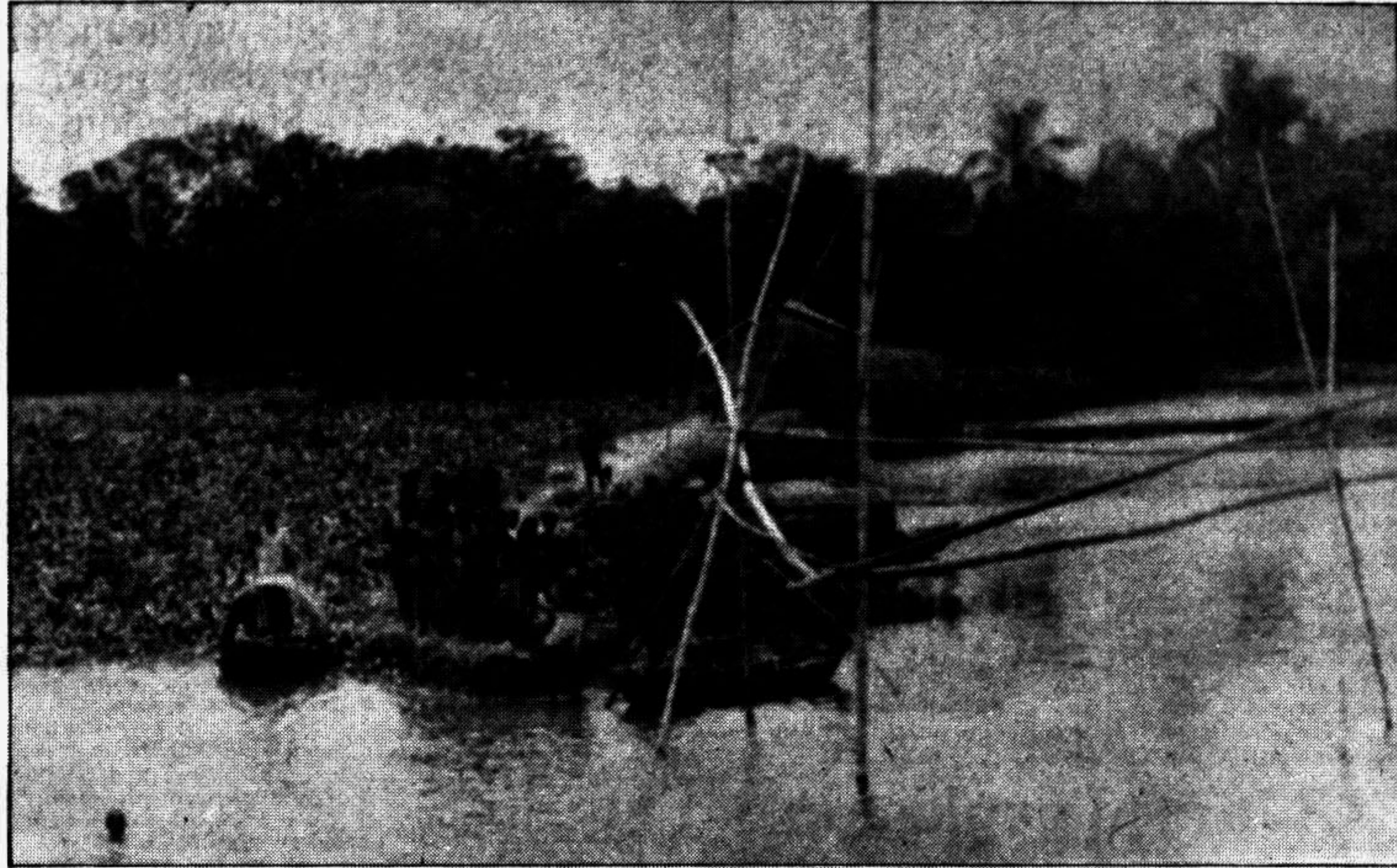
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FENI
Red Crescent Society executives
June 22 : Mostafa Kamal Pasha and Abdul Hai have been elected Vice-President and General Secretary respectively of the Red Crescent Society for 1991-92, reports UNB.
The annual election of the Society was held at Zilla Parishad Conference hall here recently.
Abdus Sattar, Wahidur Rahman, Jamal Uddin, Belal Ahmed and Habibur Rahman Nantu were elected as executive members.

42 institutions damaged
About 42 educational institutions in the district were completely and 185 partially damaged during the April 29 devastating cyclone, reports UNB.
According to informed sources, 67 institutions were damaged in Sadar, 34 in Sonagazi, 76 in Purshuram, 29 in Chaaalgania and 21 in Daganbhuyan upazilas.
The students of these institutions are attending their classes under the sky in the absence of repair institutions are attending their classes under the sky in the absence of repair works by the authorities, it is learnt.

BORGUNA
Timber being smuggled to India
June 22 : Timber is being allegedly pilfered and then smuggled to India from Amtali and Betagi upazilas of the district, reports UNB.
Some dishonest forest employees in collusion with timber traders are said to be involved in this illegal activities.
It is alleged that timber is taken through Baleswar river and four check posts of the district forest departments without any transit pass. The passes are issued by forest department.
Timber traders said they pay taka 1,000 as bribe to forest employees while crossing the check posts.
They claim that the illegal charge is realised from all traders whether or not they have transit passes.
A senior official of the forest department, however, denied involvement of his staff in such malpractices.

Poultry disease
Poultry diseases have broken out in an alarming proportion in the district claiming heavy toll of birds.
The diseases have been spreading rapidly in nearby areas in the absence of protective and curative measures by the livestock department.
Official sources said acute scarcity of medicines has been prevailing in the district creating problems to combat the growing menace.



COMILLA : When kutchra roads are yet to be constructed or bridges built village people have no option but boat, the only means of transport available.

Smuggling along border rampant
Heroin worth Tk 1.30 cr seized

From Our Correspondent
RAYSHAHI, June 22 : Bangladesh Rifles and police recovered 1.30 kilograms of heroin worth about Taka one crore 30 lakh in last two months from different areas of the Rajshahi district.
Two persons were also arrested by the lawenforcing agencies on charge of drug smuggling during this period.
Meanwhile, local officials and social workers told The Daily Star that drug addiction has been rampant in recent days along with the rise in the drug trafficking.
The rickshaw-pullers bus, truck and minibus drivers, conductors, students and unemployed persons are found to be addicted to drugs.
Drug addicted youths are allegedly involved to various crimes like hijacking and toll collection for buying sedatives.
A well organised crime circle is allegedly involved in smuggling intoxicants into the country from across the border points in greater Rajshahi district.
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Reunion
The Annual re-union of Rajshahi University Rover Scouts was held recently.
A good number of old and new Rovers, Rangers was present in the function. SK Mohammad Nurullah, General Secretary of RU Rover Scouts attended the function as chief guest while Rover Scout leader Abul Kalam Badsha and Guider Mrs Lutfunnesa Aziz were present as the special guests.
The function was addressed by Rover mate Shakil Meraj, Delwar Hossain, Rafik Hasnain and Nazmul Hossain.
Speakers of the meeting urged the rovers to serve the distressed people of the society.

Cultural Week
The RUCSU cultural week started on Sunday at the Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium with great enthusiasm.
Vice-Chancellor of RU Prof Amanullah Ahmed formally inaugurated the programme while RUCSU Cultural Secretary Shah Azam Shahtanu spoke.
At least five hundred students are taking part from twelve residential halls in the week-long competition.
The cultural programmes includes recitation of poem in Bangla and English, Rabindra Nazrul, and folk songs, dances and acting.

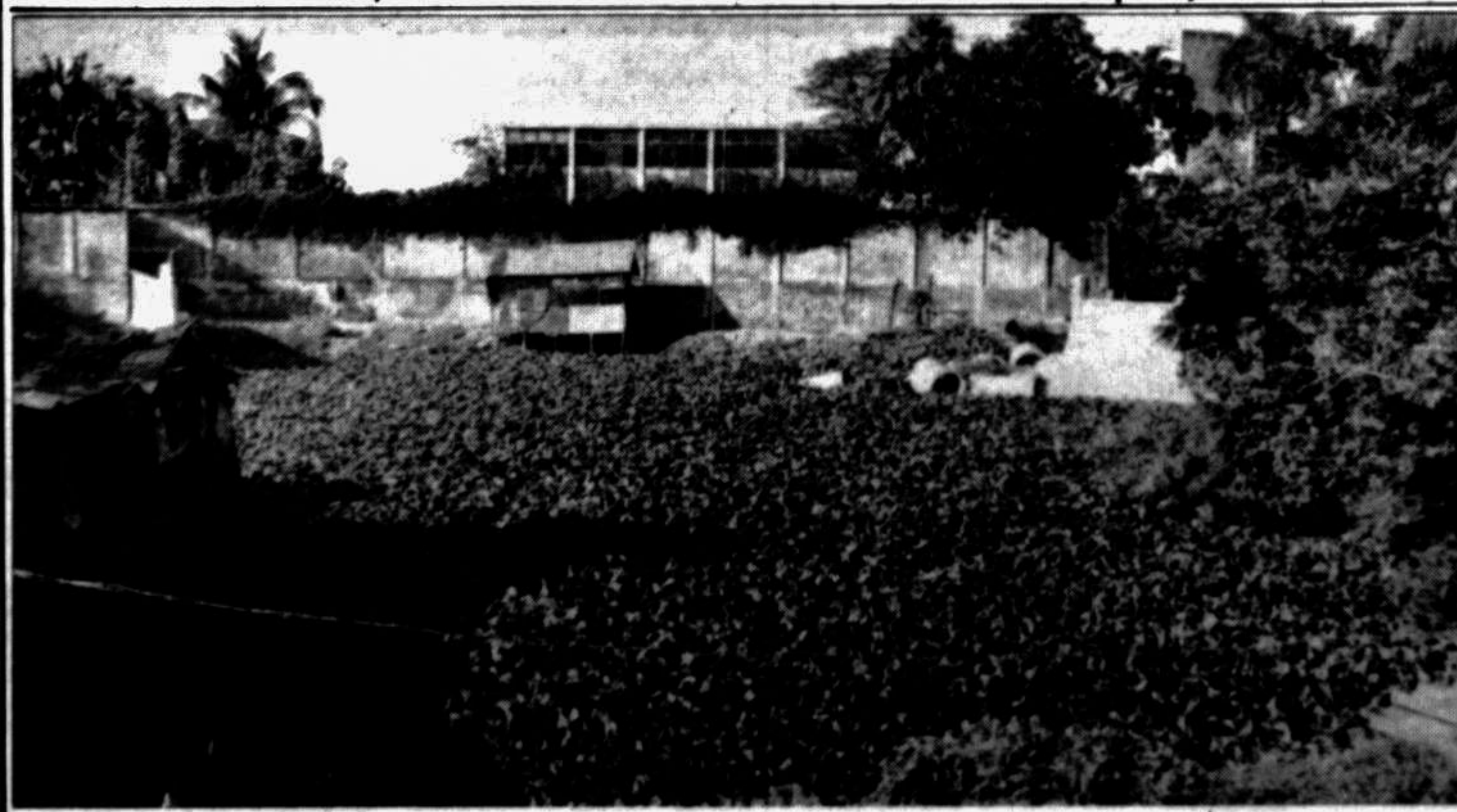
140 power tillers will be distributed free of cost

From Our Correspondent
The National Doctors Forum (NDF) of Barisal branch arranged a discussion meeting at the old Public Library auditorium recently. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Altafuddin Ahmed.
Dr. Mahbubur Rahman Shaheen Dr. Taukikur Rahman Farid, Dr. Kamrul Islam Arju and Dr. Muhammad Shahidul Islam spoke in the meeting.
Speakers supported the 23-point demands of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and urged the government to increase financial allocations in the health sector. They also demanded for immediate employment of new doctors and arrest of the killers of Dr. Miron.
The Speakers also urged the concerned authority to take necessary steps for eradicating irregularities and bottlenecks from the administration of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital as early as possible.

Body recovered
Jheenaigati upazila police recovered the body of Mansur Ali (30) at village Bakakura recently.
It is learnt that Mansur Ali was allegedly relative of his wife. Later his body was buried and paddy was cultivated over it. A case was lodged with police. On investigation, police came to know that Mansur was killed, then his body was recovered after 29 days. Police arrested six persons in this connection. Further investigation is going on.

Sale of adulterated foodstuff rampant
KHULNA, June 22 : Adulteration of foodstuff has been rampant in nine upazilas of the district causing untold suffering to the people, reports UNB.
Gastro-intestinal, skin and diarrhoeal diseases have broken out in these areas due to unwholesome sale of adulterated food items in the markets.
According to official sources, about 44 cases of adulteration have been lodged in one year and 28 of such cases have been proved.
The authorities are yet to take any meaningful preventive steps.

Cattle prices double in Chittagong
From Our Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 22 : Prices of cattleheads shot up to almost double in all the cattle markets of the port city and its suburbs compared to that of last year.
Cattle traders attributed the price hike in the cattle markets to low supply. The loss of huge cattle resources in the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge resulted in the poor supply, they said. More over, inclement weather made of difficult for the businessmen to bring the cattleheads from outside.
This year prices of a cow ranges between six to eight thousand as against Taka three to four thousand last year. A medium size cow costs around Taka 12 thousand about 50 per cent up from last year.



BOGRA : A ditch filled with water-hyacinth provides an ideal place for mosquito breeding.

Facilities absent in Rajendra College

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, June 22 : The highest educational institution in greater Faridpur district, Government Rajendra University College, is facing a lot of problems. Acute shortage of teachers, residential halls of the students are considered as the main problems. The students are facing a lot of problems due to the absence of a standard canteen on the campus. Low standard food is served in the canteen.
The proper education of the students is being hampered in absence of the required number of reference books in the library.
It is alleged that although there was a decision to hand-over the Nazrul Islam auditorium to the college, but is being delayed due to the conspiracy of the vested quarters.
Established in 1918 over 60 acres of land the college was nationalised in 1968 and 96 posts of the teacher were created but a large number of the posts of the teachers is lying vacant for a pretty long time.
On the other hand after completion of the session the students are forced to wait for the examination schedule of the Dhaka University, as the college follows the Dhaka University. Although the classes of the Honours were finished in the academic session 1989-90, the students had to wait for a pretty long time for the delayed decision of the Dhaka University causing a lot of suffering of the parents and the students, it is alleged.
The students urged the authorities concerned establish a botanical garden, a multi-storied hostel building and to procure necessary equipment in order to create a congenial atmosphere in the Rajendra University College.

Adulterated edible oil on sale in Nandail markets

From Our Correspondent
NANDAIL, June 22 : Selling of adulterated edible oil in rural markets of Nandail, Ishwarganj, and Tarail upazilas is causing serious health hazards to the consumers.
It is learnt that mustard oil is being mixed with indigenous cheap materials and dishonest traders are selling the adulterated oil at comparatively cheaper rates.
Consumption of this oil are creating various stomach ailments like dysentery, diphtheria and other gastro intestinal diseases in different rural areas, it is alleged.
Dishonest traders are taking the advantage of absence of proper checking and investigation in the rural markets and continuing this malpractice for a long time.

Misappropriation of wheat alleged

From Our Correspondent
SHERPUR, June 22 : Thirty seven metric tons of wheat under CARE project have been allegedly misappropriated by the Chairman of Gazaria Union Parishad under Sreebordi upazila recently.
According to the sources the wheat was allocated by CARE authorities for the work of improvement of roads. It is learnt that Chairman of Gazaria Union Parishad took delivery wheat and sold half of it in black market.
In another case Chairman of Belua misappropriated a large quantity of wheat which was allocated under the CARE project.
A written allegation was submitted to the higher authorities against both the chairman. Local people demanded proper enquiry into the matters exemplary punishment to the said chairman.
One Renu Bala (50), died at Sherpur Sadar Hospital due to lack of treatment recently.
It is alleged that Renu Bala was brought to Sadar Hospital in a critical state but in absence of doctor in emergency ward, Renu Bala was not provided with any treatment which led to her death in an hour.

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Arms recovered in Faridpur

From our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, June 22 : Kotwali police recovered a huge quantity of arms in a raid conducted on June 12 last.
The officer in-charge of Kotwali police, Abdul Rahim Halim with a police contingent headed by a Habildar raided the village Mahadia under Sadar upazila.
The police being aware of robbers under a bamboo bush attacked them. The robbers fled away.
The police recovered two S M G, two pipe guns, one round of bullet and two live bombs, from the spot. A case has been lodged with the Kotwali police.
Phone wires being stolen
Telephone wire is being stolen from different lines of Faridpur district. As a result, tele-communication is being disrupted in all the upazilas of Faridpur. It is learnt that a well organized gang of thieves is being carrying out this activity since long.
About 22,230 feet telephone wire from four different places were pilfered by these thieves recently.
The concerned authorities lodged several FIR in the Kotwali police station, but no remedial step has been taken yet.
The river Kumar flowing by the side of Faridpur town was once navigable for carrying goods, passengers and other items from one upazila to different places of the district. The river was also rich in fish.
For the last four to five months plying of passenger and cargo vessels has been stopped due to enormous growth of water hyacinth in the river. As a result the people are put to trouble during travelling.
Besides, over 100 fishermen are badly affected.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent
MADARIPUR, June 22 : Indiscriminate chopping of fruit bearing trees has been endangering ecological balance and creating paucity of the fruits in the district.
According to the sources a section of poverty-stricken people are selling off their jackfruit trees to the brickfield owners who are giving them high prices resulting in decline of production of jackfruits and abnormal price hike of the item.
Previously surplus jackfruits were used to be supplied to neighbouring districts but now it has become impossible to meet the local demand. Moreover, planting of jackfruit saplings to replenish the vacuum is absent.
Gay girls
Floating gay girls have been posing a serious problem to the passers-by and public in the town.
The gay girls move freely even in the day time at the important centres of the town. Sometimes they demonstrate ugly postures to draw the attention of the passers-by. Mostly youngsters become the victims which has caused concern among the guardians.
Attack on Nizami protested
Jamaat-e-Islami Shishbar upazila unit brought out a procession on recently protesting the attack on Nizami VC's office on the DU campus.
Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in the district has long been posing threat to public health. Most of these hotels and restaurants have sprung up by the road side of the lanes and bylanes amid unhygienic condition.
Resumption of bridge construction demanded
Sudden halt in the work of the bridge over Hasemdi Munshi's canal in Sannaysirchar union of Shishbar upazila in Bhanga-Mawa segment on Khulna-Dhaka highway has caused problem to the inhabitants of Shishbar upazila.
The bridge was being constructed for the easy movement of vehicles for quicker journey from Shishbar upazila headquarters to Madaripur district town, which saves at least one hour, it is learnt.
Vehicles of this route are ferried by ramshackle ferry accommodating only a truck or a bus at a time taking an hour to cross the canal which also often goes out of order.
The contract of the bridge at an estimated cost of Taka 1.16 crores was given to a firm of Dhaka by R and H Division, Madaripur in 1989-90.
After completion of 40 per cent work the scrutiny committee of the Ministry of Communication stopped the work along with some other bridges.