

## Upazila roundup

### PABNA

#### Erosion threatens Nagarbari ferry ghat

July 21: Several thousand passengers in more than 1,000 buses and trucks have been stranded at Nagarbari ferry ghat threatened with collapse by the surging Jamuna as erosion and flood situation worsened in the district, reports UNB.

The ghat protection embankment, officials said, is also threatened with erosion by the mighty river flowing 32 cm above danger mark at Nagarbari with further rise amid last two days of heavy rains.

Loading and unloading of ferries at the terminal, the main roadlink between 16 northern districts and the capital, have become almost impossible and, officials feared, might snap anytime.

More than 2,000 people of 15 villages in Bera upazila have been made homeless by the fresh flood onslaught.

The worst-affected upazilas are Bera, Satia, Sujanager and Chatmohor.

About 126 villages in these four upazilas have been inundated afresh during the last two days as heavy rainfall pushed up the water level of the overflowing Jamuna and its tributaries.

### MAULYBAZAR

#### Monu flood control project fails to save farmland

July 21: The Taka-68 crore Monu river Flood Control and Irrigation Project has failed to protect 40,000 acres of land from flash flood and salinity, according to sources, reports UNB.

Crops on the land under the project area were inundated by the recent flood.

The project with a 36.78 mile long embankment was constructed around Kawadighi Haor in Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas of the district during the fiscal 1982-83 to protect villages and also to facilitate irrigation. At least two lakh people are living within the project area.

The inundation was caused when the flood affected people living outside the project area cut the embankment to flush out stagnant water to save their lives and property.

The people outside the project area said they are to cut the embankment in every rainy season as the dike was constructed in a wrong way.

The Kashempur pump house at Karadair Canal in the mouth of the haor, constructed to drain out stagnant water from the project area, also remained inoperative.

Official sources said repair of the embankment and the pump house would cost over Tk one crore.

### COMILLA

#### BARD annual confce held

July 21: The two-day annual conference of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) concluded here on Friday, reports BSS.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr Ekramul Ahsan Member Director of PATC and presided over by Director General of BARD Sayed Murgub Mursahid. The faculty members of BARD experts and representatives from different organisations participated in the open-forum discussions.

### JHENIDAH

#### Mobarakganj Sugar Mills exceeds production target

July 21: Mobarakganj sugar mills produced 20,500 metric tons of sugar exceeding the target fixed for the current season, reports BSS.

A mills source said a total of 70 lakh maunds of sugarcane was crushed. In the current season production target of sugar was fixed at 14,500 metric tons. Crushing target was 50 lakh maunds of sugarcane.

The mills had been in production for 243 days this year.

### PANCHAGARH

#### Meagre medicare in health centres

July 21: Medicare in all the health centres here has been affected by shortage of doctors, medicines and equipment, reports UNB.

Sufferers complain that doctors and other para medical staff in each health complex are not adequate in number to cope with the rising need of the patients.

Absence of dental and eye

specialists has aggravated the situation. Besides, lack of equipment in ophthalmological department and shortage of surgical instrument have been impeding the treatment.

Absence of ambulance and blood bank is posing serious problem to the emergency patients. Lack of X-ray machines in many centres adds fuel to the fire.

Patients admitted in the centres allege that they are not even provided with emergency medicines and diets. Drugs of the centres are being openly sold in blackmarkets, it is further alleged.

Moreover, shortage of water supply and improper drainage system have been affecting the environment of the centres.

### BORGUNA

#### Pests attack Aus crops on 10,000 acres

July 21: Standing Aus crops on 10,000 acres of land have been attacked by pests in four upazilas of the district creating panic among the farmers, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, the pests known as Pamri and Mazra poka have caused extensive damages to crops in Bamna, Betagi, Amtali and Sadar upazilas.

Green paddy plants after the pest attack become yellowish and dried up, farmers said.

Official initiative to prevent the pest invasion has been proved ineffective due to shortage of insecticides and spray machines.

It is alleged that the authorities depend on the reports of block supervisors about pest invasion but the block supervisors prepare imaginary reports without visiting the affected areas.

It is learnt that most of the spray machines are lying inoperative in the upazila offices due to shortage of spares. Besides, most of the insecticides available in the market at exorbitant prices are adulterated.

Affected farmers urged the authorities to combat the menace without further delay.

### RANGPUR

#### WDB schemes to check erosion

July 21: Bangladesh Water Development Board has taken up a good number of schemes to facilitate irrigation and check flooding and erosion, reports UNB.

According to sources the schemes will be implemented during this year at a cost of Taka 3.21 crore, provided by Asian Development Bank.

The schemes include construction of two regulators, four cross dams, 200 meter metalled road and 1.68 lakh concrete blocks.

About 80 per cent of the work including two regulators have already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished by the end of this year.

### SIRAJGANJ

#### 15 feared drowned in boat capsized

July 21: About 15 people including 10 women were feared drowned after a mechanized boat capsized in the Jamuna yesterday morning, reports UNB.

The boat sank in the mighty river after its bottom was wrecked by a vortex near Bhatpatri village in Sadar upazila, two survivors said.

Assistant Headmaster of Mechra High School Mokbul Hossain and former Chairman of Mechra UP Abdul Quddus Pundit told UNB the boat sailed for Sirajganj from Char Mechra with 50 passengers, including 14 women, aboard.

They were among 35 passengers rescued by the local people after they had cried for help.

One of those missing was identified as Afsar Muhuri of Mechra village in Sadar upazila.

### KISHOREGANJ

#### Nikli Press Club executives

July 21: The executive committee of Nikli Press Club was formed in a meeting with Idris Ali, Upazila Chairman, Nikli in the chair recently.

The 10-member executive committee was formed with Nurullah and Abu Zaman Khokan as President and General Secretary respectively.

Other office bearers are: Prince Rafiqul Islam Khan—Vice-President, Ahasan Zuel—Assistant Secretary, Habibur Rahman Hoby—Treasurer and members: Atiqul Hoque Bhutyan, Ziaul Haque Syed, Anwar Hossain, Mohammad Ali and Sahjahan Seraj.



Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in urban as well as rural areas. Stagnant water in uncleaned drains and ponds filled with water hyacinth are the ideal mosquito breeding centres. Photo shows a derelict pond filled with hyacinth at a place in Narayanganj. —Star photo

## Defalcation of college fund detected

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 21: A case of misappropriation of huge sum of money from Islampur College fund has been detected.

The Convener of Teachers Sangram Parishad (Action Committee) in Islampur College has lodged written complaints with the office of the Deputy Commissioner, District Anti-Corruption Bureau and Director of Education Ministry.

The complaint sought departmental inquiry and punishment to the persons found guilty of the defalcation.

According to the allegation, the misappropriation involved several lakhs of Taka in terms of leasing out Dharmakura Hat, tuition fees, repairing, fake

conveyance bill, bank accounts, employees salary and cash sanctioned against various heads during the last several years.

According to a report college authority misused Taka 25 lakh collected as fund from Dharmakura Hat since last 15 years. The authority realised tuition fees of last three years from the students and deposited with the bank and then started using it for somebody's personal gains. The Principal submitted fake vouchers for many repair work under several heads including furniture making and repair, electric connections, construction and repairing of school building, etc.

Beside, a large quantity of

crops including paddy and sugarcane produced on college land has no proper accounts in respect of their sale or consumption.

An amount of Taka 25,000 was drawn from college fund by submitting conveyance bills when the money was spent for personal work.

The college has paid a fine of Taka 27,000 to Dhaka Education Board for irregularity in college work.

Taka four lakh was misappropriated from teachers' salaries which was not deposited with the bank during the last four years.

The Teachers' Sangram Parishad has urged the present democratic government to investigate into the matter at the

earliest and take immediate action against the offender.

#### Wheat misappropriated

About 83 metric tons of test relief wheat worth Taka 5.5 lakh were misappropriated at Melandah upazila of Jamalpur district. The wheat was allocated for the implementation of development schemes under food for works programmes (FWP).

The wheat was allotted by the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation under special programme during last season for 83 development schemes for improving the roads and earth works in educational institutions.

A reliable source said that the wheat was illegally sanc-

tioned in the names of different clubs and association.

It is learnt that the project chairman took delivery of the wheat in June 30, 1991 and 95 per cent of it was sold in blackmarket. It is further alleged that the project chairman were asked to submit fake master rolls and project progress report of the development schemes by June 30. Later it was extended up to further seven days.

People of Melandah upazila headquarters protested against the misappropriation of FWP wheat and chanted slogans demanding exemplary punishment to the persons involved. But no action has yet been taken in this regard.

## BJMC owes growers Tk 35 lakh in Nandail

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, July 21: Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation has failed to pay the price of jute procured from Ishwarganj upazila through its purchasing centres leaving the growers and traders amid untold sufferings.

The sources said that the growers and traders sold jute worth Taka 35 lakh to the BJMC last year but the whole amount is lying unpaid with the Corporation.

In the meantime the new season of procurement is already knocking the door. If the sellers are not paid their outstanding bill the procurement drive will suffer a setback this season.

#### Pension

The widow of a postal employee is passing her days amid untold sufferings as she has not been provided with the pension of her deceased husband since two years he died.

It is learnt that Abdur Rahman of Bangawp under Ishwarganj upazila was a runner at Athara Bari sub-post office. But suddenly he died on May 26, 1989 leaving behind his wife and four children.

Since then the widow Amina Khatoun fell the worst victim of financial hardships. She has no earning member in her family.

Amina filed petition to the

relevant authorities seeking pension of the deceased as per the provision. But in spite of constant appeals she got no response from any corner. As a result she along with her children is passing agonising days.

#### Housewife killed

The wife of a Union Parishad Chairman was chopped to death at Fulpur upazila recently.

It is gathered that Fatima Khatoun (32), the third wife of Hafizul Islam, Chairman, No. 5 Fulpur Union Parishad while returning from upazila office at 7 am was attacked by a gang of miscreants who chopped her to death. They fled away leaving her seriously injured.

A case was registered with Fulpur police in this connection and the body was sent to morgue of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for post mortem.

#### Law, order situation reviewed

Law and order situation of Nandail was reviewed in a meeting held in the thana premises recently.

DC, Mymensingh Md Ashraf was present on the occasion as chief guest. The meeting

was participated among others by UNO, Kazi Abdul Kasem and other upazila officials.

The DC in his speech urged the police authorities to dedicate their services for the welfare of the people, so that people do not spend sleepless nights.

OC, Nandail, Ajmal Hossain assured all sorts of co-operation with the public to maintain the law and order situation all over the upazila.

#### Miscreants loot shops in Barisal

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, July 21: Armed miscreants looted goods worth two lakh taka and ransacked more than ten shops recently in Nalbania Bazar of Mehediganj upazila under Barisal district.

Erosion makes hundreds homeless in three upazilas

MANIKGANJ, July 21: More than 300 families in three upazilas of the district became homeless due to heavy downpour and unabated erosion by the rivers Padma and Jamuna Tuesday, Water Development Board sources said, reports UNB.

## Tele-link facilities in Chandpur inadequate

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 21: The district trade and commerce with the capital and other parts of the country have suffered a setback due to lack of tele-link facilities at Chandpur district for a long time. Most of the times tele-link remain inoperative for days together.

As a result, telegram and telephone cannot be operated. Local journalists cannot send their despatches to Dhaka dailies due to frequent disruption in both telephone and telex connections. It is learnt that telex machine is out of order for a long time. The machine seems to be very old. So it should be replaced immediately.

Besides, subscribers complain frequent cross connections and other disturbances in

telephone sets. Trunkcalls are seldom attended to the public from the local telephone office.

Jahangir Akhand Selim, President, Chandpur Chamber complained that the business is hampered due to tele-link disruption at Chandpur. Businessmen cannot send their telegrams from local telephone office. Local tele-link system remains out of order. So telegrams are sent by post office.

On the other hand, the NWD introduced in 1988 is now functioning with only four channels which cannot cope with local load. There are two systems of telephone numbers at Chandpur. These are four and three number groups. Four group telephone numbers are disrupted off and on.

## Work on 5 projects suspended at Rajbari

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, July 20: The construction work of five major development projects at Rajbari district headquarters remained suspended for a long time due to shortage of funds.

The projects included construction of collectorate building, Police Super's office, Civil Surgeon's office, police line, judge court building and PWD Executive Engineer's office. The work was taken up about six years back but suspended due to fund constraints.

The officers and employees are facing acute accommodation due to non-implementation of the projects. The authorities concerned have been urged to sanction necessary funds for the completion of the projects to alleviate the sufferings of the concerned departments.

## Train services irregular in Rajbari

RAJBARI, July 21: Irregular train timings, dearth of engines and passenger coaches and lack of proper maintenance of railway line have been hampering train services under Paksey division of western zone of Bangladesh Railway for a long time, reports UNB.

Although railway is one of the principal means of communication, dearth of engines and coaches cause untold suffering to the passengers of this division. As a result, railway employees are put into undue harassment and railway services are losing confidence of people.

## Work on 5 projects suspended at Rajbari

Balckmarketters snatched away smuggled goods from the railway security force on duty from Rajbari-Khulna intercity Titumeer express train on July 12.

The smuggled goods included Indian currency, wrist watches and blades. The incident took place near outer signal of 726 downtrain at Panchooria railway station.

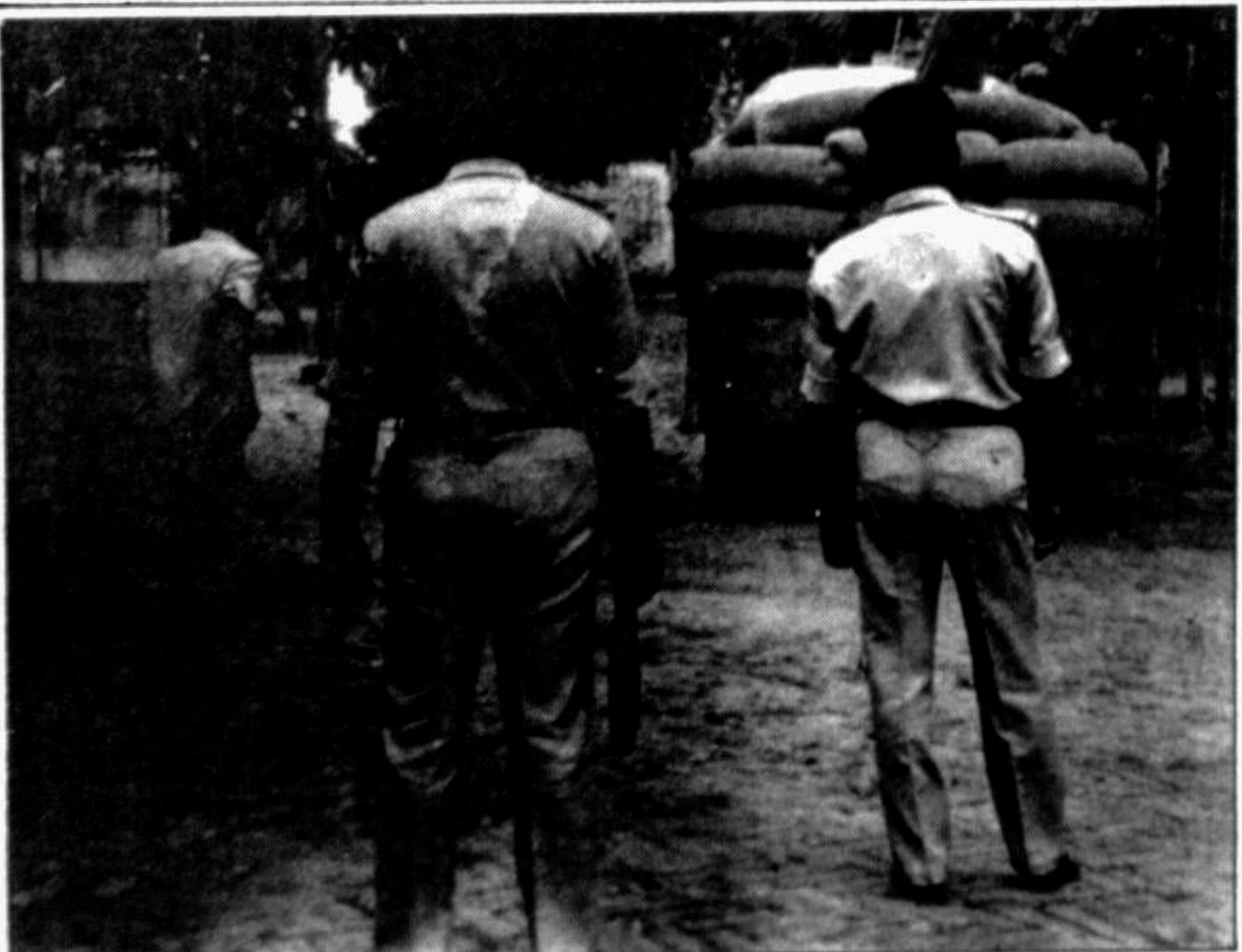
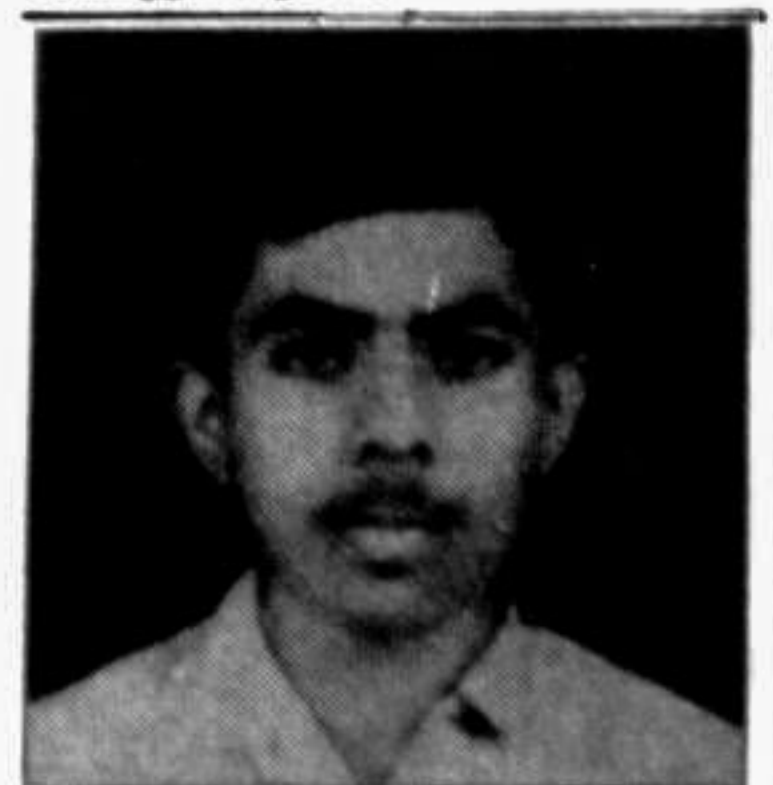
Eyewitnesses said that the blackmarketters broke the police escort and snatched away the said goods.

The snatchers alleged that even after paying the contract money the police seized the smuggled goods.

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## Scholarship

Mohd Manzur-e-Elahti, obtained junior scholarship of 1990 in talent pool held this year, and stood first from B L Government High School, Sirajganj. He also secured primary scholarship from the same school in 1987. He is the 3rd son of Md Shafiquddin Talukder, a senior officer at Uttara Bank Ltd head office, Dhaka.



JAMALPUR: A truck loaded with test relief wheat seized by the BNP workers, while it was proceeding with the relief goods to be sold in blackmarket. —Star photo

## Students urged to be attentive to studies

MANIKGANJ, July 21: Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called upon the students to devote themselves to their studies and work hard for building a self-reliant country, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at Harirampur Upazila headquarters here, he said "to make the nation self-sufficient one we must impart proper education to our posterity".

Prof. Chowdhury said the BNP government, which came to power after a free and fair parliamentary elections, was the people's government and so it was pledged-bound to fulfill their hopes and aspirations. "But all the problems, accumulated during the last nine-year rule of autocratic regime, cannot be solved overnight," he reminded the people.

State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfar Rahman Khan attended the meeting as special guest. Presided over by Abdur Razzak, General Secretary of the Manikganj unit of BNP, it was also addressed by Harunar

Rashid Khan, MP and Begum Farida Hasan, MP.

The Education Minister said the BNP government will soon restart mass education and canal digging programmes and reintroduce "Palli Chikitsak system," initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. The autocratic Ershad's regime had stopped all these people-oriented programmes, he added.

Prof. Chowdhury said after the start of 'mass-education revolution' by Shaheed Zia, 40 lakhs people were imparted with education and one crore books were printed for this purpose. The Ershad regime had destroyed the unused 60 lakh books, he said.

Prof. Chowdhury said, 1,400 canals were dug and 27,000 rural doctors were developed during the time of late President Zia but Ershad discontinued all these programmes.

The Education Minister called upon the party workers to uphold the ideals of Shaheed Zia.

Mr. Lutfar Rahman Khan underlined the need for checking corruption and malpractice in the education sector especially in examinations.

Local MP Harunar Rashid Khan said four unions of Harirampur upazila were devoured by the Padma and 13,000 people had been rendered homeless as a result. He demanded their rehabilitation. Earlier, the Education Minister inaugurated "Huran Nahar Girls High School" near the upazila premises and planted a sapling in the school compound. He also offered Munajat there.

The school has been built with the financial assistance of local MP Harunar Rashid Khan.

## Notes from Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, July 21: Elder brother was killed by his younger one at Jankura village under Boda upazila of the district, police said.

The victim Mahiruddin (40) was stabbed to death by his younger brother Tamizuddin (33) following a family dispute on the same day. The body was sent to the hospital for autopsy and a case has been registered in this regard. However, Tamizuddin managed to escape.

#### Waiting rooms needed

Absence of waiting rooms in 13 upazila courts of the district has been causing untold sufferings to the litigants. The sufferers who come from remote areas of the upazilas complained that they have to wait under the sky or loiter in the corridors of the court buildings in absence of any sitting arrangement.

Local people urged the authorities to construct waiting rooms in all the courts here to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

#### Cataract patients

At least 100 cataract patients were operated upon and 300 patients with eye complications treated in a week-long eye camp at Atwari upazila. The camp was inaugurated by the Upazila Parishad Chairman, Fahimuddin Ahme which was jointly organised by the Upazila Parishad and BNSB Eye Hospital at Phulbari Bus Stand in Dinajpur town.

The operation was conducted by ophthalmologists from BNSB Eye Hospital. Spectacles were distributed free of cost among the patients.

#### Welding shops

Inhabitants of Dinajpur town here have been affected adversely by mushroom growth of welding shops on road sides and open places. Various welding workshops have sprung up beside roads in Munstpara, Bahadurbazar, Pulhat, Sulhat, Balubari, Paharpur and Sasitilla posing threat to health of the residents and pedestrians.

It is alleged that sparks during welding work, seriously affect eye sights. Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary action in this respect.

#### 4 burnt to death

A young man was burnt to death and property worth about Taka five lakh were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out in Kushatrigram village under Rasulpur Upazila Parishad in Birganj upazila on Thursday last.

Originated from the oven of a kitchen the fire engulfed the nearby residences of Dabu Miah, Hamdul Haq, Hafiz Ibrahim, Wasim and Abdur Razzak and gutted property worth about Taka five lakh. One Mozammel Haq was burnt to death in the fire.

Another fire incident took place in village Panangor under Shatlar Union Parishad of the same upazila.