#### **MAULVIBAZAR**

### Kerosene price rises

June 7: Price of kerosene oil has gone up in local markets here adversely affecting the poor people, reports UNB. Buyers alleged that pricehike was caused after some unscrupulous traders created artificial scarcity of the fuel in

markets. Market sources said a seer of kerosene is being sold between Taka 20 and Taka 22 as against Taka 14 and 16 a fortnight ago.

Sufferers have urged the authorities to take steps against the dishonest traders and ensure smooth supply of the fuel to local markets.

A minor girl was roasted alive while property worth about Taka one lakh gutted in a fire at Barerchar area of the

town, police said here today. The victim was identified as Rukshana Begum (8), daughter of Md Abdul Gaffar. She was the student of a local govern-

ment primary school. Eye witnesses said the fire originated from the kitchen of a house in the area and en-

gulfed the neighbouring houses. Villagers after frantic efforts

put out the fire by spraying water and sand.

# PABNA Dead snake in mental hospital

rice bowl June 7: A doctor of the mental hospital here discov-

ered a dead snake from a rice bowl Saturday, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the onduty doctor spotted the snake while a patient was having meal at

The patient was apparently unaware of the presence of the dead snake in the rice bowl, other patients said.

A ward boy was suspended in this connection.

#### 100 shops eroded

ward number 13.

About 100 shops at Nakalia Bazar in Bera upazila were eroded by the river Jamuna over the last two days, officials here said.

Sources said that Gonopatadia, Singhasan and Taghunathpur villages of the upazila and Nagarbari ferry ghat were threatened by the continuous erosion of the river Jamuna.

Meanwhile, about 500 people of the villages were rendered shelterless by the erosion, the sources added.

#### Smuggler arrested

Police Wednesday arrested a notorious absconding smuggler from Paurashabha area

The arrested Yunus Ali Mintu (40), an infamous smuggler was given 120 days detention under special powers act.

Mintu was involved in various criminal activities like murder, loot, arson and smuggling for as long time, local people said.

#### **JHENIDAH**

#### 13 kg tumour removed from abdomen June 7: Doctors removed a

13 kg tumour from the abdomen of a housewife at village Kangshi under Harinakunda upazila, hospital sources here said, reports UNB.

Family sources said Shila (30), wife of Rafiuddin of the village was rushed to the sadar hospital on May 25 suspecting her pregnancy pain. Later the doctors discovered a tumour in her abdomen. The operation was con-

ducted by Dr Hassanuzzaman of the hospital. The patient is recovering fast, the doctor said. A total of 1.20 lakh hectares

of land have been brought under transplanted aman paddy cultivation in 10 districts of Khulna division over the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), of the total, 9,580 hectares will be brought under cultivation in Khulna, 13,569 hectares in Bagerhat, 190 hectares in Satkhira, 12,224 hectares in Jessore, 30,048 hectares in Narail, 16,082 hectares in Magura, 14,196 hectares in Jhenidah, 10,585 hectares in Kushtia, 5,550 hectares in Chuadanga and 8,478 hectares in Meherpur districts.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has distributed seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs among

the farmers at a fair price. With the successful implementation of the programme, about 1.5 lakh metric tons of rice is expected to be produced, the sources added.

#### SATKHIRA

#### One crushed under wheels of minibus

June 7: A pedestrian was run over by a minibus near Kalaora village on Satkhira-Jessore road on Wednesday, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the speeding coaster (Jessore-JA-25) knocked Sirajul Islam (16) down while he was crossing the

The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy. The driver of the minibus, however, managed to flee with the vehicle. A case was filed with Kalaora police in this connection.

## 79 projects to protect land from salinity

June 7: At least 79 projects are underway to protect land from salinity and flood water in nine upazilas of Feni and Noakhali districts, reports

Sources said Water Development Board is executing the projects at a cost of Taka 7 lakh in Sadar, Companiganj, Hatiya upazilas of Noakhali district and Sadar, Sonagazi Daganbhuiyan, Fulgachi and Parshuram upazilas of the Feni district.

The schemes include construction of sluice gates, closures, embankments and cross

On completion of the projects, about 20,000 acres of land will be saved from salinity and flash flood.

Meanwhile, Water Development Board has completed the repairing of the embankment at Hattya breached by the April 29 cyclone and tidal wave costing 368 tons of wheat under Food for Works Programme.

#### Muhuri embankment

Flood waters leaked through breaches of the Muhuri embankment have been hampering cultivation in different villages of Porshuram upazila of the district.

embankment, stretched from Ratanpur to Danikunda villages, was breached during 1988's floodings but no steps have yet been taken for its repair. Villagers said cultivation of

Aman and other crops are being hampered seriously on about 3000 acres of land in Ratanpur, Rampur, Durgapur, Maddhya Danikunda, Purba Danikunda, Pashchim Danikunda, Chitolia, Fulgachi, Ghoniamura and Kesmat Ghoniamura villages of the upazila. Affected farmers have urged

the authorities to repair the embankment immediately.

#### RANGPUR

#### 31 injured in road accident

June 7: At least 31 passengers were injured, eight of them seriously, when a bus Tuesday fell into a roadside ditch at Shahpur village in Pirgoni upazila on Rangpur-Bogra Highway, police said, reports UNB.

The seriously injured were rushed to the Rangpur Medical College where condition of three passengers were stated to be critical. Witnesses said the ill-fated

Bogra bound bus (Dhaka-Ba 6853) met the accident when the driver lost control over the steering.

Both the driver and helper of the bus, however, managed to escape.

A case was filed in this con-

#### Body recovered Police Tuesday recovered

an unidentified body of a middle aged man from the bank of the river Ghaghot near Bhabanipur village in sadar upazila here.

The body bore several cut marks. Police sent the body to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed with local police in this connection.

#### PIROJPUR

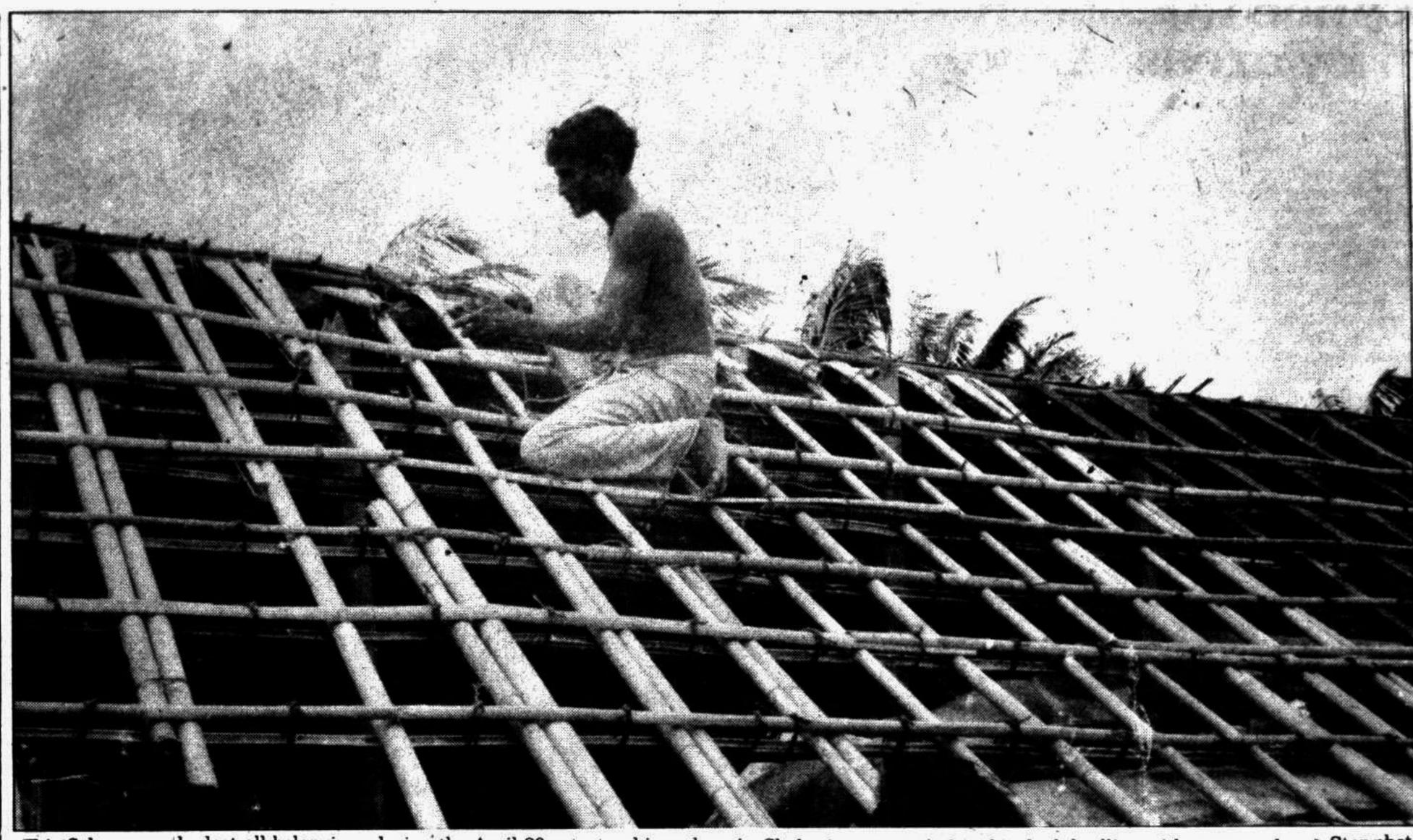
#### Body recovered June 7: Police Saturday re-

covered a body from a protected room of Rahman Metal Industry here, reports UNB. The body was found hanging

from the roof. Police suspected that the

victim, Abdul Halim, manager of Rahman Metal Industry, was murdured and the hanging was done to conceal the motive of killing.

The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was also filed.



This fisherman who lost all belongings during the April 29 catastrophic cyclone in Chakoria rebuilding his thatched dwelling with a renewed zeal. Star photo

# 'We don't want to depend on relief anymore'

CHAKORIA (Cox's Bazar). June 7: We don't want to depend on relief anymore. What we need now is loan on easy term to buy necessary implements and cattle to plough our land," said Mohammad Fazal Ali, an elderly farmer of village Magnama-one of the worst affected sea-shore village, about 30 kilometers from Cox's Bazar

BSS Special Correspondent Delwar Hossain visiting the cyclone-hit areas along the coastal belt found villages still littered with debris, but farmers, fishermen and ordinary people are yet looking forward to build their lives anew.

Abdul Hug, an elderly fisherman who had lost his fishing boat and nets along with all his belongings said, "The government has done a lot by standing beside us with pure water and food, clothes, and medicines after the cyclonic storm and tidal surge." He said, "Now we need fi-

nancial support for repairing our damaged boats, engines and fishing nets." Looking at the otherwise

placid Bay of Bengal which had turned frighteningly tumultous

on the fateful day with tidal

Zia's education

policy will be

implemented:

Delwar

Whip of Jatiya Sangsad

Khandker Delwar Hossain yes-

terday said the government is

determined to establish the

education policy, initiated by

Shaheed President Ziaur

Rahman, in the country, re-

He further said that the

present Parliament is more

powerful than all the previous

ones. It is our sacred duty to

take pragmatic steps to estab-

lish law and legal rights, he

The Chief Whip was ad-

dressing as chief guest at a

meeting of teachers, students

and local elite at the confer-

ence room of Deputy

Khandakar Nurul Hossain

Academy organised the meet

ing on the occasion of

by Deputy Commissioner of

Manikganj Murtoza Hossain

Munshi, was also addressed by

senior BNP leader Advocate

Abdul Wahab and Vice-

Principal of Khandkar Nurul

Hossain Law Academy Khitish

1 killed, 20 injured

in road mishap

young boy was killed and 20

others injured in two separate

accidents on Dhaka Aricha

Highway Sunday, police said,

down by a truck loaded with

cows when he was crossing

the road at Barabarta this

The Dhaka bound truck was

The driver along with the

The other accident oc-

truck, however, managed to

curred a Mulzan, 6 km from

here when a passenger bus lost

control and fell into a roadside

jured and admitted at the

Sadar hospital. Local people

and police conducted the res-

cue operation. The driver of

the bus remained absconding.

At least 20 people were in-

Khokan (12) was knocked

MANIKGANJ, June 7: A

The meeting, presided over

here.

Commissioner

Education Week.

Chandra Mondol.

reports UNB.

morning.

escape.

ditch.

coming from Aricha.

ports BSS.

added.

MANIKGANJ, June 7: Chief

surge Abdul Huq narrated his stories of the past in having bountiful catches of fish.

Going round the devastated areas, this correspondent was told by many people that the government, after completion of emergency relief operation, took up the first phase of rehabilitation programme for repairing damaged roads and embankments and dewatering of contaminated ponds in the affected areas. The people are now looking forward to procure seeds, fertilizers, cattle for cultivation, boats, engines and nets for fishing.

With the drying up of the inundated farmlands, the affected people who took shelter at different camps started returning to their respective homesteads with resilience and courage to build their normal lives again.

Explaining the relief and rehabilitation programmes, the Chakoria Upazila Relief Coordinator, Nizamuddin Ahmed said, "By the grace of Almighty Allah and hard work of the officials and voluntary workers, we have overcome the crisis period of the aftermath of the severe cyclone by solving prob-

He said a Taka 26 crore

and poor.

emergency programme for this area has been undertaken for rehabilitation of agricul ture, shrimp culture and salt growing sectors in the upazila. Of the amount, Taka 10 crore will be spent for rehabil-

itation in the shrimp culture

sector. Taka nine crore for salt

growers and Taka seven crore

for agricultural rehabilitation, The Upazila Coordinator said under house building programme, the government would distribute two bundles of CI sheets and Taka 1,000 to each of the 50,000 families identified as worst affected

"Once we complete the emergency repair and restructuring work on the coastal embankments damaged by the cyclone, we will start distribution of seeds, fertilizers and other implements among the farmers for agricultural rehabilitation. Seeds for winter vegetable cultivation will also be distributed among the marginal farmers," he added. He said that the upazila

up separate programmes for rehabilitation in the salt growing and shrimp culture sectors, the two main occupation of the people in this coastal upazila.

The fisheries officer of

Chakoria upazila, Mahbubul Bashar told BSS if we can extend soft-term credit to the farmers engaged in shrimp culture, they will be able to reap a harvest within four months time. Rehabilitation of the fishermen with fishing boats and nets and short-term loan for pond fisheries will yield positive result in reviving economic activities in the affected areas.

Though the government has taken up programme to supply CI sheets for house building, the affected people said that in addition to CI sheets they were in dire need of bamboos, wood, paddy straws and other indigenous materials for rebuilding their houses. Local Jatiya Sangsad mem-

ber Enamul Huq Manju (Jamaat) giving his comments on relief operation said the services rendered by government officials and voluntary lems of drinking water and administration has also drawn workers were commendable.

He, however, said the relief materials were not adequate to cover all the affected people. Moshtaque Ahmed, a stu-

dent of Chittagong University, said that high prices of housebuilding materials like wires and nails commonly needed by the affected people should be checked. Ahmed further suggested

reopening of schools and madrashas on priority basis in the worst-hit areas of Chakoria upazila. The Chairman of Pakua

Union Parishad, Mokhtar Hossain Chowdhury said:" I am fully satisfied with relief distribution to the most needy." He said repairing work of damaged roads and embankments are being done under food for work programme on priority Easy term loan is, however,

needed for affected farmers and fishermen to enable them start their normal work, Chowdhury said. Replying to a question, the

Chairman said: There has been no chance of misappropriation of relief goods this time since these were distributed in the presence of officials, army and

## 150 FWP schemes implemented

GOPALGANJ, June 7: A total of 150 schemes under Food for Work Programme in Gopalganj district in fiscal year 1990-91 have been implemented with an allocations of 3,580 metric tons of wheat, reports BSS.

### Notes from Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, June 7: Fish production in northern districts is decreasing sharply due to siltation of ponds, marshes and tanks which is threatening the breeding of fishes seriously.

Although northern region could produce 18 lakh maunds of fishes annually but fish production has been decreasing for lack of proper maintenance of water bodies.

According to a reliable source, there are about 750 ponds of different categories in northern districts. Other than private and public ponds all are lying uncultivated and fully depends on natural gift.

Due to continued siltation and random lifting of water for irrigation purpose the pools are dried up before the summer season. Moreover many of the marshy land turn into cultivable lands for IRRI and Boro crops. As a result, breeding of fishes of all spices are decreasing alarmingly.

#### School girl kidnapped

Miss Jharna (13), a student of class IX of Gobindaganj Girls School was kidnapped on her way to school on May 25.

Abdus Sobhan, father of the victim of village Chandipur under Gobindaganj Upazila filed a case with local Thana against seven persons alleging one Milon , a driver of Saiham Construction Co. as principal accused.

Police later in a drive arrested nine persons including four women in this connection. The police could not rescue the victim as yet.

According to a report on the day of occurrence Jharna was going to school by a rickshaw van along with some other passengers. Milon was also going towards the bus stand as a co-passenger. Accused Milon kidnapped Jharna.

#### Child drowns One Rabi, a three-year old

child of Anil Chandra, village Ramdev under Sunderganj Upazila was drowned in a pond adjacent to the dwelling house. The victim was playing with some other playmates on the bank of pond and suddenly fell into the water and drowned Train journey

# hazardous

Journey by train in Lalmonirhat -Santaher and Teestamuk Ghat-Dinajpur sections has become hazardous. The trains on these lines are inadequate and as a result the journey is extremely irksome.

Late arrival of the trains in this sections is a regular feature causing immense suffering and inconveniences to the waiting passengers in different stations.

Only three express and two local trains run up and down on this line to cope with thousands of passengers everyday. The trains often run over crowded. To make the things worse for the passengers only five or six old and ramshackled compartments are attached to the trains. Passengers travel inside the compartments like any thing.

# Defective planning hampers cultivation

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, June 7: The cultivation has become uncertain on 30,000 acres of land in Gungjuri haor due to defective planning of Water Development Board to protect crops from early flood at a cost of Taka 19,56,000. The farmers alleged that

cultivable lands in Habiganj Sadar, Bahubal, Nabiganj and Baniachong upazilas of the district will remain fallow if the scheme is implemented. Besides wastage of money, it will also bring untold sufferings to thousands of peasants. they added.

The scheme included construction of 54 kilometres embankment on both sides of Karangi river. Putijhuri-Sanghat-Bagdiar road and 12 kilometres early flood protection embankment, reexcavation of 124 kilometer long hilly channel and construction of seven sluice gate to discharge onrushing flood water Farmers complained that

#### Arms recovered

CHITTAGONG, June 7 Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) seized three pipe guns and arrested three persons in this connection from an iron shop at Askarabadd (Double Mooring) here yesterday, a CMP Press release said, reparts BSS. Police raided the shop on a

secret information and found the pipe guns. The arrested persons confessed that they were using the

pipe guns for dacoity at different places. A cass had been filed with Double Mooring police in this

connection.

construction of these embankments and sluice gate, 30,000 acres of land will be inundated water after slight rainfall destroying the crops also the growers will be deprived of 9,40,800 maunds of paddy worth about Taka 23 Besides, the proposed em-

bankment will also create hazards to the movement of country boats multiplying the sufferings of the rural people and businessmen. On the contrary one lakh

tons of paddy can be produced if proper scheme is taken accordingly.

#### Dacoits loot valuables

JHENAIDAH, June 7: Valuables worth about Taka 50,000 were looted in a bus dacoity near Barabazar area under Kaliganj upazila on Jhenidah-Jessore highway Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to police, the dacoits numbering two to four boarded the Kushtia-bound minibus in the guise of passengers and forced the driver to stop the vehicle on the point at around 8 pm. Another seven to eight dacoits waiting in a micro bus at the place joined them and attacked the passengers with pistol, knife and other deadly weapons.

The dacoits decamped with the booties injuring a passenger seriously. He was rushed to the sadar hospital. A case has been lodged with the local police in this connection.

# Fishermen need patronisation

A US Navy air cushion landing craft (LCAC) delivers relief supplies to Rahamatpur,

Sandwip Island, during Operation Sea Angel. During 12 days of operations, the LCAC

vessels delivered more than 1,500 tons of supplies to Sandwip Island.

#### From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 7. Thousand of fishermen of the haor areas of Kishoreganj. Netrakona, Habiganj and Sunamganj are facing numerous problems like shortage of fishing materials, grabbing of funds by asection of influential persons and price hike of fishing equipment

The unplanned irrigation projects have aggravated the situation. The indiscriminate fishing of fry is posing a threat to the professional fishermen and other fish resources. It is alledged that a section of peo-

By Staff Correspondent A number of shops were gutted in a fire originated from an electric short-circuit on Sunday morning at Kaliakoir Bazar of Tongi, Fire Service sources said. Four units of the Fire Ser-

vice rushed to the spot and

extinguished the fire within 40

minutes. According to fire offi-

cials, the damaged property

valued Tk. 5 crore.

Shops gutted

ple are using current nets for fishing and they pump out all water of a pond without leaving any finger ling. According to the sources

scarcity of fish and other prob-

lems have forced some traditional fishermen to leave their profession while non-professional fishermen have their monopoly over the whole fish ing profession causing concern among genuine fishermen. There is a provision to lease

out haors, beels and jalmahals to the genuien fishermen but some ljaradars in collusion with the local vested groups are giving sub-lease to fake fishermen. As a result the real fishermen are unable to fish normally even after getting lease in most cases. The nonprofessionals catch fish forcibly taking away their nets and other appliances.

The fishermen alleged that they do not get proper help even after informing the law enforcing agencies. On the other hand these poor fishermen cannot purrates of equipment, extra charges of carpenters and labourers have attributed to their financial constraint. They take loan from local 'mahajans' at high rate of

- USIS photo

ineterest which is one of the main causes of their sufferings. A section of dishonest bank officials have created bottlenecks in sanctioning loans. They are reported to take gratification from the poor fish growers. As they are unable to overcome all these sufferings they have been compelled to change their traditional voca-

The fishermen demanded the concerned authorities to take appropriate steps to contain the prevailing situation.

#### Philip Schmit visits Rajshahi RAJSHAHI, June 7: Philip

Schmit, President of All Mayors Association of France visited Rajshahi City Corporchase fishing appliances for ation yesterday, reports BSS. want of necessary funds. His