

District roundup

B'BARIA
Two killed, 12 injured in road mishaps

July 4: Two people were killed and 12 others injured in two separate accidents in the district on June 24, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, in one accident near Bahadurpur on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, a micro bus hit a roadside tree injuring 12 passengers.

Of the injured, Tulla Miah (10) succumbed at Sadar hospital.

A case was filed with Ashuganj police.

In another accident one Taran Akhter (8) was crushed under the wheels of speeding truck near Sultanpur on Brahmanbaria-Comilla highway.

A case was filed with Sadar police.

CHANDPUR
Absence of notary public: people facing problems

July 4: The people particularly the business community of the district have been facing various problems due to absence of Notary Public for the last 15 months, reports UNB.

Government has cancelled the license of Notary Public of the district with effect from March 3 last year on charge of irregularities, official sources said.

The people finding no other alternative have to go to Notary Public Office in Chittagong, Comilla and Dhaka, which cost them time, money and energy.

Notary Public is needed specially for gas connection, business contracts, matrimonial affidavit, power of attorney affidavit and other important affairs.

They have urged the concerned authorities to immediately appoint a new Notary Public in the district to redress their sufferings.

SIRAJGANJ
311 HSC examinees expelled

July 4: Some 311 HSC examinees were expelled from 12 centres of the district during the last five days for adopting unfair means, reports UNB.

Of them, 54 were expelled from Government college, one from Women's College, 21 from Shahjadpur College, 38 from Islamia College, 32 from Ullapara College, 7 from Chandakona College, 60 from Haji Karam Ali College in Kamarkhanda, 23 from Kazipur College, 45 from Chowhali College and 4 from Belkuchi College.

Authorities have imposed ban on operation of all photostat machines in the district to curb widespread unfair means in the ongoing examinations.

Another report adds: The construction work on a spur at the Brahmaputra embankment near Belkuchi thana headquarters has been completed at a cost of Taka 40 lakh.

Water Development Board implemented the work to protect the thana Sadar from the erosion.

The sources said a vast areas of the thana will also be protected from continuous erosion of the river Jamuna.

FENI
Seminar on rural sanitation

July 4: A seminar on "Development Sanitation and Social Movement" was held on Saturday at Chhagalnaiya Girl's High School premises, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by UNICEF and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), the seminar was aimed to make rural sanitation programme a success.

Women representatives from different government and non-government organisations participated in the seminar.

Begum Halima Khatun, MP and Additional Deputy Commissioner Nurul Islam were present as the chief and special guests while Thana Nirbahi Officer ADM Abdul Basit presided over the inaugural session.

Among others, UNICEF programme officer, Noakhali, local PHED executive engineer, acting president of Feni Press Club addressed the function.

C'NAWABGANJ
Workshop on uplift of water supply

June 4: A workshop on Sanitation Development and Water Supply was held here at Shaheed Smriti Hall on Monday, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and the local pourashava in cooperation with UNICEF, the workshop was aimed to disseminate information about sanitation and rural water supply.

Representatives from various government bodies including the Family Planning, Health Department, teachers from different educational institutions and field workers from various social welfare organisations and NGOs attended the workshop.

Deputy Commissioner Shahidullah Mia inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest while local Pourashava Chairman Abdul Manman presided over it.

Among others, representative of UNICEF, Deputy Engineer PHED, Rajshahi addressed the workshop.

LALMONIRHAT
Installation charges halt sinking of tubewells

July 4: Increase of installation charges stalled sinking of UNICEF-sanctioned 70 tubewells in Dahagram and Angarpota during the current fiscal year (1992-93), reports UNB.

Official sources said the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has recently doubled the installation charges.

The installation charge for each of the tubewells was Taka 350 last year which has fixed to Taka 700 in recent days, they said.

The enclave people, mostly the poor and marginal farmers who are unable to bear the expenses, urged the concerned authorities to look after the matter considering their overall conditions.

NARAIL
Unregd marriages on increase

July 4: The number of unregistered marriages is increasing fast in rural areas of the district leading to oppression on women-folk, reports UNB.

High charges and official complexities force most of the young people to avoid the registrations, local people said.

Many of the dishonest and fraud husbands are taking the advantages and using it as tricks to divorce and re-marry without any restrictions.

The attitude is normally high among the distressed people and marginal farmers, sources said.

Daughters of poor people, whose marriage were not registered, very often fall in troubles and are tortured by their husbands and members of in-laws.

Most of them cannot seek legal supports against their husbands in the hours of need due to lack of registration, they added.

Meanwhile, local people complained that some unscrupulous marriage registrars are taking exorbitant fees without giving receipts.

They urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter, and make marriage registration compulsory and easy.

BARGUNA
Landless on rise

July 4: The number of landless and unemployed people is on rise in the district due to acute economic crisis, reports UNB.

About 50 per cent farmers are landless, 30 per cent with a few acres of land and the rest 20 per cent can be classified as land owners.

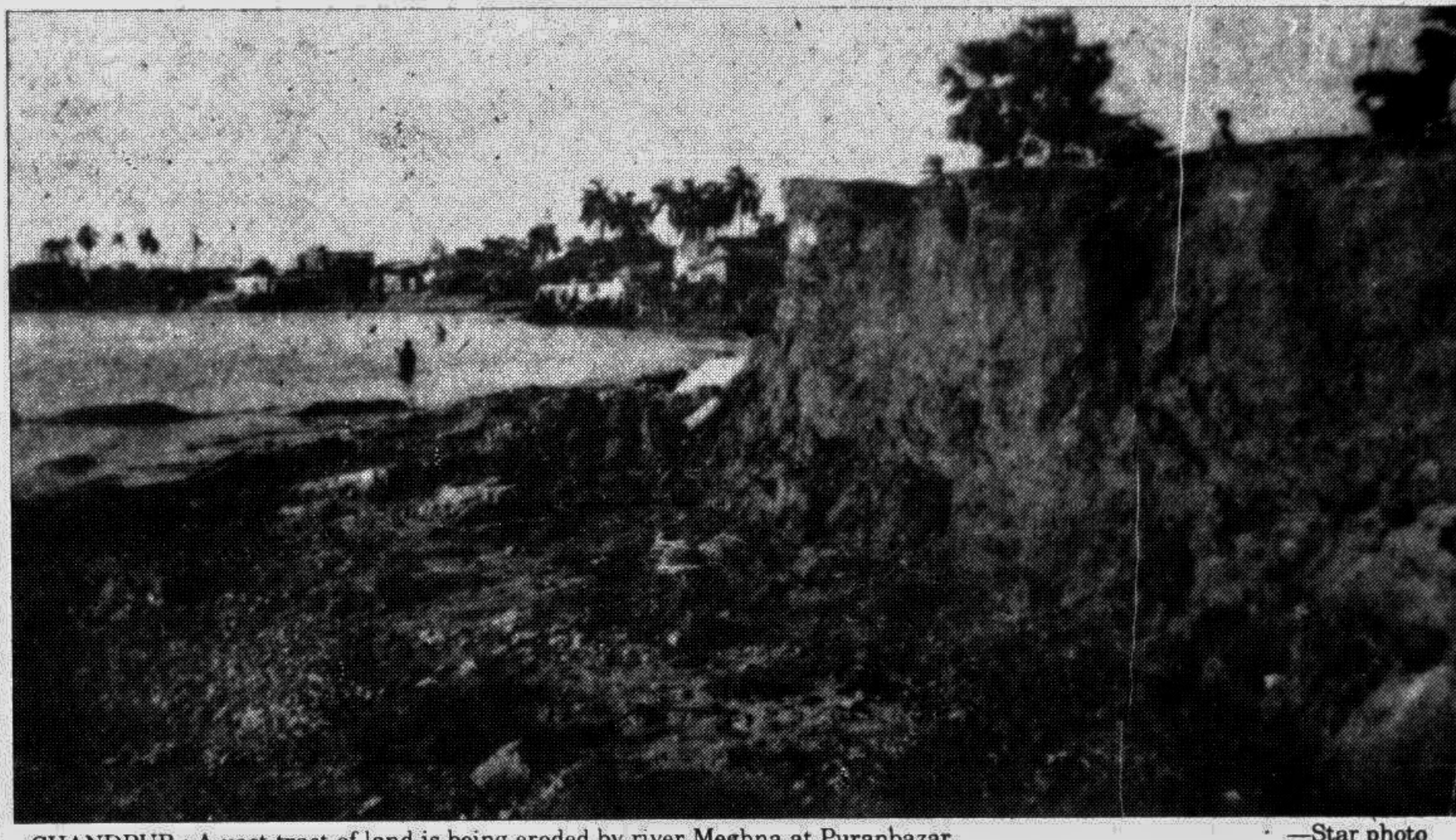
Of the total seven lakh population, about 40 per cent are unemployed, 10 per cent are various professional groups and the rest 50 per cent depends on agriculture.

Unfavourable weather and natural calamities like cyclonic storm, tidal bore, drought and floods rendered most of the farmers landless.

Besides shortfall in production has become a regular feature in the district which also forces farmers to sell or lease out their lands, local people said.

Most of the farmers having a few acres of land cannot cope with the prices of agricultural inputs. They cannot buy fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and bullocks for cultivation due to abject poverty.

Moreover, they do not get even production cost of their crops. Finding no other alternative, they are compelled to sell out of their lands. Local people urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to ensure bank loans for cultivation of their lands.



CHANDPUR: A vast tract of land is being eroded by river Meghna at Puranbazar. —Star photo

No govt purchase Paddy sells at low price

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, July 4: The low price of IRRI-Boro paddy in the markets of Chuadanga district is causing immense sufferings and loss to the farmers as the purchasing of IRRI-Boro paddy has not yet been started by the government here.

It is informed that the purchasing target of IRRI-Boro paddy has not been fixed in the district. As a result the farmers of the district are suffering much.

During the last season, boro paddy was cultivated on 16,000 hectares of land in four thanas of Chuadanga district and production was satisfactory due to favourable weather. The farmers informed that the cost of production has increased due to price hike of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, cost of irrigation and diesel.

It may be mentioned here that about Taka 7000 is required to cultivate one acre of land to produce about 45 to 50 maunds of paddy.

At present one maund of paddy is being sold at Taka 140.00 to 150.00 in the village markets of the district which is far below the production cost.

Such fall in the price of IRRI-Boro paddy is discouraging the farmers and creating frustration among them. The helpless farmers are being deprived of the fair price of paddy in the district. If this situation continues the cultivators would be compelled to abandon cultivation of IRRI-Boro paddy in the near future.

BDR seizes Indian smuggled goods

The BDR personnel stationed at Chuadanga camp seized Indian smuggled goods worth Taka 38,36,000 from two trucks recently.

The seized smuggled goods included saree of different quantities, cloth for curtains and hand globes.

According to local BDR source, two trucks which were loaded with imported Indian onion from Darsana custom office and were heading for Dhaka. Acting on secret information the local BDR personnel headed by Captain Mohiuddin chased the said two trucks. The BDR personnel halted the truck at Magura and searched for the said smuggled goods.

A case has been registered in this connection with the Magura police station. No one was arrested.

3 awarded 10 yrs RI

The Additional District and Session Judge (3) of Chuadanga, Azizul Hoque sentenced three persons to suffer 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Taka 1000 each in default.

The accused were identified as Md. Saidur Rahman, Md. Mosharraf Hossain and Md. Shahidul Islam.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused persons entered into Bangladesh illegally from India along the border area of Dhopakhal of Jibannagar thana of Chuadanga district while they were caught red-handed by the BDR personnel who were on petrol duty. The accused were carrying piston with them.

A case was registered in this connection with the Jibannagar thana of the district. After proper investigation the IO of the case submitted charge sheet against the above three persons.

Notes from Magura

MAGURA, July 4: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested three smugglers and recovered a huge quantity of Indian Phenidyl syrup worth about Taka 43,335 from their possession last week, reports UNB.

Tip off, BDR men rushed to Magura bus stand, raided a passengers bus and seized the contrabands from Abdul Rashid, Abdul Haque and Abdul Karim of Satkhira district, police said.

A case was filed with Magura police in this connection.

Best teacher

District Education Committee has selected Abul Quasem, Principal of Magura Adarsha College, as the best teacher in the district for this year.

A well known educationist in the district, Abul Quasem served as principal of Alkemia College of the district for long prior to his joining at Adarsha College. He joined the Magura Adarsha College in 1990.

Magura Adarsha College has also been selected as the best educational institution in the district, District Education Committee sources said.

Fire damages

Tk 4 lakh property

A devastating fire broke out at Kajoli Bazar in Sreepur thana of the district, gutted four shops and damaged property worth about Taka four lakh on Sunday last.

The fire, originating from a electric short circuit of a cloth shop at the bazar, engulfed the adjacent shops and burnt to ashes four of them, local people said.

Local people rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

Boy electrocuted

A school boy of Darimagura area in Sadar thana was electrocuted at his school hostel last week.

Abdul Hannan (10), a student of Magura Al-Amin School came in contact with a live electric wire while he coming out from his hostel room on last Sunday night and died on the spot.

The body was sent to Magura Hospital for autopsy.

Liquor shops

Dishonest liquor traders are running a good number of unlicensed shops in the town giving rise to theft, crime and other anti-social activities, local people alleged.

Local people said more than 15 unauthorised liquor shops are being run at different parts in the town.

Security of life uncertain

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 4: The security of life and property has become uncertain in twelve unions of Nandail thana due to deteriorating law and order situation during last six months.

It is reported that all sorts of crime are rampant here. Peace-loving people of the thana have been passing their days amid fear and panic.

Dacoity, robbery, kidnapping, hijacking, toll-collection, armed clashes between rival groups, rape, murder, gambling and other anti-social activities have increased in the thana and the number of crimes stood much higher than the previous year. The worst affected unions are: Sherpur, Kharua, Jahangirpur and Moyazempur.

The role of police in every incident is questionable. They usually play silent or mysterious roles in most of the cases which also bring suspicion among the people.

On the other hand, the police refer to the shortage of police force, vehicles and hazardous communication system.

It is informed that most of the crimes are not registered accurately. The local police never supply any information regarding crime to the journalists. They show various causes including absence of concerned officer and other flimsy grounds.

While talking to the correspondent, Officer in-charge, Nandail thana said, they were trying their best but were facing numerous problems. He also said the villagers were hardly co-operating with the law enforcing agencies. But the local people's opinion is that police were harassing innocent villagers in the name of curbing crimes.

Sources said, an ex-UP chairman and some local influential people are directly or indirectly linked with many crimes.

Toll collection is also rampant at different places of the thana.

Moreover, none is found to check the large-scale corruption, some people complained. Traders, dealers and contractors have to pay shares to the local mastans within the knowledge of the authorities.

Misappropriation of wheat and rice from different projects, food for work programme are also continuing in full swing in collusion with the local administration. The situation in the district town and other thanas of the district is also alarming recently. There was a severe clash between two rival political groups when known miscreants freely use various arms including Chinese axes, hand bombs, lathis and iron rods. The local political and social leaders expressed grave concern over the situation.

Bangladesh Awami League Nandail thana unit recently held a meeting and urged upon the government to take effective steps to curb the crimes. They also warned the local law enforcing agencies that if they don't play effective role in this regard, they would be compelled to take up the issues and they would not be responsible for the situation that would arise.

Flash flood badly hits pond fisheries

PATUAKHALI, July 4: The recent flash flood due to incessant rain has badly affected the pond-fisheries in the district causing huge financial loss to the fish cultivators, reports UNB.

Facilities Department has sanctioned Tk 1.13 crore for the construction work. The work is expected to be completed by December next.

River erosion leaves 500 families homeless

Some 500 families have lost their homesteads on account of erosion by the river Kavakhana during the last five years.

Local people said the river also devoured a vast tract of land in four villages of Bauphal thana during the period.

The worst affected villages are Char-Ragunaddin, Baherchar, Hajipur and Kaspara.

The erosion hit people have taken shelter on nearby WAPDA road and are passing their days in sub-human condition.

They urged the government to take scheme to rehabilitate them without further delay.

Low-lying areas of the six thanas of the district, particularly char and coastal areas went under 3-4 feet water due to heavy rain. As a result, fish population of different ponds went out with the flood water.

It was roughly estimated that fish cultivators have suffered a loss of Tk 50 lakh due to the over flow of their ponds.

Many owners of the ponds who have taken bank loans for pisciculture are passing their days in extreme agony.

Another report adds: Construction work on Science and Commerce building of the Barisal B M University College is nearing completion.

Mango output on decline

NARAIL, July 4: Production of mango in the district has sharply declined during the current season due to indiscriminate fall of trees in the area, reports UNB.

According to a study, the local variety of the seasonal fruit has reduced over the decade in the area as the trees are being used randomly in the bricks fields as fire wood, for dwelling houses and for furniture.

The poverty-ridden people often sell the fruit bearing trees to a section of traders at cheap price in the local markets, causing declining mango trees in the area.

Moreover, the people usually do not plant mango saplings after cutting the mature ones, the study revealed quoting local people.

The natural calamities has also damaged the mango saplings planted in different areas of the district.

During the current season the supply of the local variety of mango in the hats and bazar of the district is scarce and the price of the fruits has registered sharp rise.

The common people can not afford to buy mangoes as the price has gone beyond their purchasing capacity.

The local people urged the authorities to take steps to stop the indiscriminate fall of the trees to protect the ecological balance.

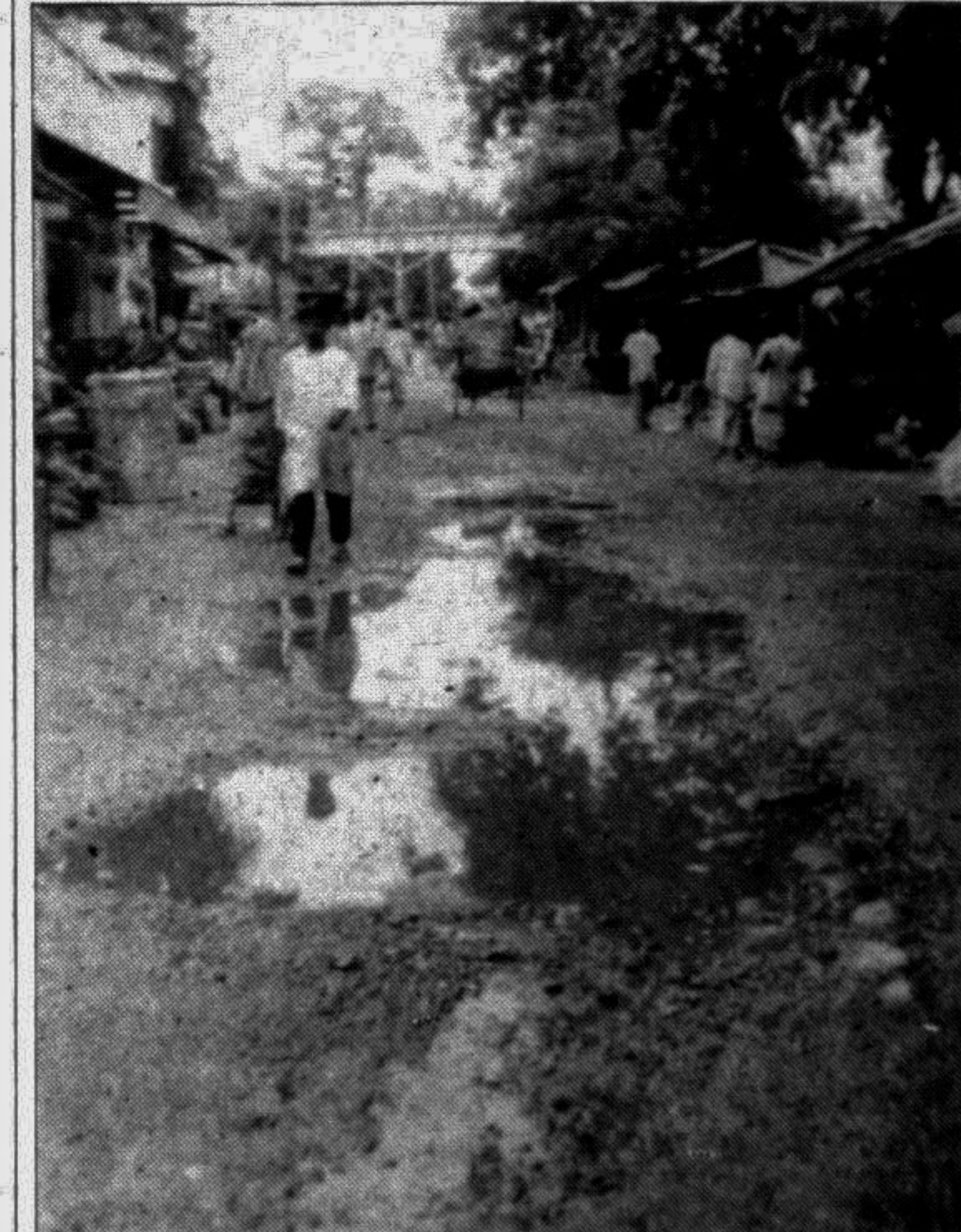
Bus journey hazardous

Overloading, reckless driving of buses and trucks and frequent stoppage at unscheduled places have become regular features causing much suffering to the passengers in Lohagara-Jessore via Narail and Kalia-Narail routes.

In the absence of waiting sheds at the bus stands on these routes the passengers have to suffer much during the rain and scorching heat. The children and the women are the worst sufferers.

The passengers complained that the drivers of the buses hardly maintain the time-schedule of the departure and arrival of the buses. They stop their vehicles here and there causing suffering to the passengers.

Besides, reckless driving of the vehicles has increased the number of accidents in the district.



SYLHET: Pitiable condition of the Topkhana Road of Sylhet town where pot-holes have developed which needs immediate repair. —Star photo

Hundreds of boys deprived of educational facilities

NAOGAON, July 4: Hundreds of boys and girls at Barogachha union in Ratinagar thana are being deprived of educational facilities due to absence of any high school, reports UNB.

There are about 1000 high school going boys and girls in 15 villages in the union, but most of them are forced to give up education for non-existence higher educational institutions, local people said.

The affluent section of the locality send their wards in the district town and other places for higher education but the poor people are deprived of the facilities. As a result, the number of dropouts is increasing day by day.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to establish a high school in the union without further delay.

Another report adds: The annual conference of Bangladesh Workers Party of the district was held on Monday. Zahid Rabbani Rashid presided over the conference while central leader Tipu Biswas attended it as the chief guest.

The conference was addressed, among others, by Advocate Salauddin Mintu, Abdul Gaffar, Ranjit Lahiri and Taufiqur Rahman Lahu.

Comrade Shahid Hossain Siddique Sapan was elected as the secretary of the district unit.

Tipu Biswas in his speech urged the party workers to work sincerely to serve the interest of common people.

The villagers of Palsha Krishnapur in Ratinagar thana of the district constructed a 200 feet long road through voluntary services recently.

The villagers took the initiative to reconstruct the kutchra road, which was in a deplorable condition for long to mitigate the sufferings of the inhabitants.

Union Parishad members, students and hundreds of villagers volunteered for the construction work of the road.



NATORE: Movement of pigs through different streets of the town causes inconveniences to the pedestrians. —Star photo