

District roundup

PABNA

Policemen suspended for taking bribe

Aug 18: Four policemen were suspended on charge of taking bribes and extorting tolls from the people to the tune of Taka 10 lakh, officials said here Friday, reports UNB.

The suspended constables are: Harun-ur-Rashid, mess manager of Pabna Police Lines, Md Mustak, Abdur Rahman and Md Faruque of Pabna Police Lines.

Pabna Babosayee Otkya Parishad in a written complaint to Police Super alleged that the four constables extorted money and goods from them. They allegedly harassed the people if they refused to comply with their demand.

In an investigation, the Pabna Police Super MA Mabut found the four guilty and suspended them at a meeting with senior police officials on Thursday.

SYLHET

Boy killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

Aug 18: A minor boy was crushed to death by a speeding minibus at Mujirgaon on the Sunamganj-Sylhet highway recently.

The killer vehicle was on its way to Sylhet from Sunamganj and when it reached at Mujirgaon near Lamakazi bridge crushed the boy, Golam Nur, (8) under its wheels. He was the only son of one Abdus Salam.

The driver of the minibus (Sylhet Ba-5516) however managed to escape alongwith the vehicle from the spot after the accident.

The agitated people blocked the road for about one and a half hours. On getting information, police reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

A case in this connection had been registered with the police.

M'BAZAR

Pry teachers' assoc unit executives

From Our Correspondent

Aug 18: The annual election of the Primary Teachers' Association, Rajnagar thana unit was held recently at Rajnagar.

Md Aftab Uddin Ahmed and Ayoub Ullah were elected President and General Secretary of the executive committee respectively.

The other elected office bearers were: Vice Presidents — Md Ala-Bakhs, Atashi Baran Bhattacharyya, Shirin Begum, Assistant Secretaries — Md Abdul Khalique and Archana Bhattacharya, Organising Secretary — Debbrata Roy, Sports Secretary — Saytendra Kumar Deb, Cashier — Md Afzal Khan, Social Welfare Secretary — Mokhtars Miah, Women's secretary — Nazma Khanam and Office Secretary — Shamsul Islam.

The meeting discussed the progress of family planning, EPI programme and other development schemes and emphasised the need to gear up the activities to implement them on schedule.

Different problems of the Noakhali town including water hyacinths, filths, garbage, stagnant water and drainage system were also discussed and necessary steps were taken to ensure public health.

Addressing the meeting the Chairman of Noakhali Paurasava assured to set up of sanitary latrines in schools, madrasas and colleges in its primary programme in the town.

The present diarrhoea situation was also discussed. Pye dog menace, compulsory primary education, mass education, tree planting, pisciculture and electrification of different areas of the town and rural areas were also discussed.

Works of LOED, R & H and Relief and Rehabilitation departments were also reviewed in the meeting.

The meeting urged the officials to work with sincerity and devotion to change the lot of commonman.

The meeting chaired by the Health and Family Welfare Minister, Choudhury Kamal Hossain was also addressed by Jatiya Sangsad members Advocate Mosharrif Hossain, Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf and M A Rouf Mia.

According to a recent decision of the government the DHSDC has been formed in all the districts with a view to ensuring better health services and hospital management in all the hospitals.

Orientation course
A five-day long teachers' orientation course on 'Mosque Based Mass Education Programme' organised by Islamic Foundation began here at Shilpakala Academy on Saturday.

A total of 48 imams from Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari districts are participating in the course.

Abdullah Khan Alam, Deputy Director Islamic Foundation, Faridpur, presided over the inaugural function while it was addressed by Advocate Sarwarja Mia, Chowdhury Mohammad Hossain and Abdul Khair.

GAZIPUR

Civic life miserable

Aug 18: Gazipur pourashava is beset with manifold problems, causing inconveniences to the town residents, reports UNB.

The dilapidated condition of the roads, lack of proper drainage system and inadequate water supply have made the civic life miserable.

About three-fourths roads in pourashava areas are kutcha. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads due lack of proper maintenance and repair works.

The situation turns worse in the rainy season. After a short rainfall, the roads become unsuitable for communication.

All the kutcha drains are filled with garbage and stagnant water, which are the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes. Lack of dustbins in the poura areas compels the town dwellers to dump their garbage in the drains, blocking the water outlets.

Street lights are insufficient and many roads have no electric light at all. Besides, water supply is irregular, causing sufferings to the dwellers.

The pedestrians are also faced with much trouble due to establishment of a large number of unauthorised shops on the roads and foot-paths.

Meanwhile, the number of stray dogs has increased alarmingly in the poura areas, posing a threat to the town dwellers. The dogs are found in the residential areas as well as commercial places.

MADARIPUR

Residents suffer much for mosquito menace

From Our Correspondent

Aug 18: Mosquito menace at Madaripur pourashava areas has assumed an alarming proportion causing untold suffering to the town dwellers.

Stagnant water in the roadside ditches, derelict ponds and heaps of garbage besides the roads are said to be the main reasons for such sufferings.

No adequate and effective measures to eradicate mosquito menace have yet been taken by the Madaripur pourashava authorities. Conventional methods of spraying insecticides have proved ineffective. Consequently, breeding of mosquitoes in the town continuing unabated.

It may be mentioned here that Madaripur pourashava lacks proper drainage system. Immediate measures should be taken up for proper cleaning of drains and ditches and the derelict ponds of the town.

PATUAKHALI

Two boys drowned

Aug 18: Two minor boys drowned at a pond in Dashmina thana under Patuakhali district recently, reports BSS.

The unfortunate boys Shaiful Islam (5) son of Golam Mostafa, a block supervisor of Dashmina thana Krishi Bank, and Ahasan Habib (5) son of Anisur Rahman, an officer of Dashmina Gramone, went out on that day. As they were playing on the bank of the pond suddenly they fell in the pond and drowned.

Another report says: Lalbanu (23) wife of Zakir Hossain of village Telikhali under Patuakhali sadar thana allegedly committed suicide recently.

Lalbanu hanged herself on a mango tree near her house. The cause of her committing suicide could not be ascertained.

The body has been sent to the Patuakhali hospital for post mortem. A case has been filed with Patuakhali sadar thana in this connection.

CHITTAGONG

Minor girl rescued from kidnapper

Aug 18: Kotwali police caught the driver of an auto-rickshaw red-handed while he was allegedly kidnapping a minor girl from Tigerpass area here Thursday, reports BSS.

Police said Lili, aged eight, along with her family members returned here from Dhaka by night coach. They hired an auto-rickshaw to reach their residence and as soon as Lili boarded the auto-rickshaw the driver speeded up the vehicle.

Lili kept on screaming and when the auto-rickshaw reached near Tigerpass crossing, patrol police heard the cry of Lili on board the auto-rickshaw. Police stopped the auto-rickshaw and rescued Lili, she was later returned to her parents.

The driver was arrested and handed over to Kotwali police.



SYLHET: Potholes have been developed on the road at the town near the court point causing sufferings to the pedestrians and damaging vehicles. — Star photo

Official misappropriates Tk 53 lakh Tk 12.50 lakh medicine for flood victims embezzled

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 18: Valuable drugs worth about Tk 12.50 lakh were reportedly misappropriated by MP, Mirza Azam here recently.

District Civil Surgeon office sources said, Mirza Azam, MP, in a written application submitted to Chowdhury Kamal Hossain, Health Minister, for the drug for treatment of diarrheal diseases in his own Jamalpur-3, constituency in March this year. Azam made the application for the people of his areas of Madariganj and Melandah affected by diarrheal diseases.

The health minister had sanctioned the required drugs for the area issuing a written order to the director, Store and Supply Central Drug Store, Dhaka.

Azam received the drugs and allegedly sold those in black-market. The medicines are: 500 sets of saline, worth Taka 3,500, 20,000 ORS worth Taka 39,800, 20,000 capsules worth Taka 11,200, 5000 ampicillin capsules worth Taka 10,000, 10,000 tablets valued at Taka 7,000, 5000 tablets valued at Taka 3,150, 20,000 paracetamol tablets worth Taka 5,200 and 20,000 antacid tablets valued at Taka 2000.

Those medicines were received by Azam from the Central Drug Store, Tejgong, Dhaka on May 31, 1993. Later, he sold these medicines in black-market, according to Civil Surgeon office, Jamalpur.

When contacted, Askar Ali, Civil Surgeon, Jamalpur told this correspondent that Azam claimed break out of diarrheal diseases in Melandah and Madariganj thanas but later it turned out to be a false claim. He said that diarrheal disease did not spread in these thanas and none died of it.

Azam in a written statement to the health minister had claimed that about 50 people died of diarrhoea under his constituency and immediate supply of drug was a must.

A section of people at Melandah and Madariganj thana head quarters brought out separate protest procession against MP Mirza Azam for misappropriation of the drugs here recently.

A UNB report from Pabna says: About Taka 53 lakh was allegedly embezzled by an official of the local Land Acquisition Department in collaboration with some other officials.

The Deputy Commissioner of the district Ashiqul Haque told the local newsmen that the three-member committee led by

Zulhash Uddin, a Revenue Officer, formed by him, investigated the matter and found the allegation against the officer Abdul Jalil and his accomplices valid.

The DC said the report was duly submitted to the District Bureau of Anti-Corruption for instituting a case on the basis of the investigation findings. But he alleged that no action has yet been taken in this regard by the bureau.

When contacted the officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau said they were investigating the matter thoroughly and the action would be taken in due course.

Meanwhile after the unveiling of the misappropriation of the money the district administration suspended the power of further issuing of checks by the Land Acquisition office and following the step the work of the department remained stopped.

When contacted the Land Acquisition officer Abdul Jalil informed that the allegation against him is not based on facts. He, however, admitted that an incident of mispayment of Taka 11 lakh took place unknowingly. He assured that the 'mispayment' money will soon be returned by the concerned drawers.

Tk 18.22cr electric bill lying outstanding in Sylhet circle

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 18: Electricity bills to the tune of Taka 18 crore 22 lakh 34 thousand have been lying unrealised in the Sylhet circle of PDB till the end of last financial year (1992-93).

The circle is comprised of four districts of greater Sylhet region namely, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj. The Sylhet circle of PDB is comprised of three divisions namely, Moulvibazar Commercial Operation, Sylhet and the Sylhet Distribution division.

According to an official source, 28 crore 86 lakh units of electricity were brought to the circle from the National Grid while 22 crore 21 lakh and 76 thousand units were sold to the customers. The average system loss in the circle stood at 23.01 per cent.

Of the total amount of outstanding, Taka nine crore 84 lakh has been lying in the Sylhet commercial operation division, where 11 crore 82 lakh

43 thousand units of electricity were brought and seven crore 80 lakh 76 thousand units were sold to the consumers. The system loss here was at 33.96 per cent. The Sylhet commercial operation is comprised of Sylhet town and some of its adjoining areas.

In Moulvibazar distribution division, Taka five crore 24 lakh 75 thousand has been lying unrealised as arrear bills, where 11 crore 81 lakh 37 thousand units of electricity were brought and nine crore 96 lakh 43 thousand units were sold to the customers. The system loss was 15.65 per cent.

There are eight electric supply stations in the Moulvibazar division namely, Ajmiriganj, Baniachang, Barlekha, Habiganj, Kulaura, Moulvibazar, Nabiganj and Shamshearnagar.

In the Sylhet distribution division, there are 13 electric supply stations. These are, Balaganj, Beanibazar, Biswa-

nath, Chhatka, Deral, Fenchuganj, Golapganj, Jagannathpur, Jamalganj, Jaintapur, Kanaighat, Sunamganj and Tajpur.

An amount of Taka three crore 13 lakh 59 thousand has been lying unrealised in the Sylhet distribution division, where six crore 22 lakh 20 thousand units of electricity were brought and four crore 42 lakh 56 thousand units were sold to the consumers. The average system loss stood at 28.87 per cent.

It may be stated here that, the targets fixed by the higher authorities to reduce the system loss and increase the realisation of arrear bills in all the divisions of Sylhet circle PDB had totally failed.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, (First court) Sylhet, Sunil Chandra Paul sentenced recently one Raiyab Ali, commander of the Akhila Ansar Camp, Sylhet to suffer life-term imprisonment

Truck drivers on strike in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 18: Some 300 trucks remained stranded at different points in Sirajganj district today (Friday) as the District Truck Sramik Union enforced an indefinite strike after a truck driver was beaten by a group of people in the morning, says UNB.

The Union called the indefinite strike at 7 am protesting the incident and demanding punishment to those responsible for the attack.

Police said a group of youth signalled a truck on New Barga road near the town to halt at about 3.30 am. But driver Azizur Rahman, fearing the group might be dacoits, drove away with his vehicle and stopped at a local jute godown.

The group later traced the truck, found the driver sleeping and beat him mercilessly.

The Truck Sramik Union also brought out a procession in the town demanding immediate punishment to the people responsible for the attack on driver Azizur Rahman.

17 hurt as BNP factions clash

PABNA, Aug 18: Seventeen people were injured as two factions of Iswardi Paura unit of BNP clashed in the town over smoking ganja early on Friday police said, reports UNB.

Seriously wounded Kolloi (22), Abdul Mannan (30) and Manik Chandra Roy (24) were admitted to Iswardi Thana Health Complex.

The clash erupted following an altercation over smoking of ganja between the two groups, one led by pourashava chairman Mokhesur Rahman and the other by Iswardi Paura BNP Secretary Akhtar Hossain, at West Tengri area of the town.

Kolloi, a supporter of Akhtar, was beaten up by his rivals, when he was returning home at about 1 am. This prompted the rival groups to blast crackers and clash with sticks and other lethal weapons, the local people said.

Two cases were filed with the Iswardi thana by the rival groups. Nobody was arrested.

Town uplift plan taken up

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Aug 18: Moulvibazar Paurasava has taken up a project of development of drains, culverts, dustbins, slums and construction of public latrines under the Medium Town Coordinated Flood Control Project during the current fiscal year.

Besides, a 95 lakh Taka project for construction of roads has been taken under the government's Annual Development Programme (ADP) in Moulvibazar pourasava.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman yesterday said the government had selected the development of pisciculture as a priority sector to meet the ever-increasing demand of fish in the country.

Meet to ensure better health services held

FARIDPUR, Aug 18: The first meeting of the District Health Service Development Committee (DHSDC) was held on August 6 at the Faridpur General Hospital, reports UNB.

It was resolved in the meeting to allow 10 per cent of the earnings of the general hospital to meet up the expenses of the Roving Specialists Medical Team.

The meeting also expressed satisfaction on the recently developed health services and hospital management in the district.

The meeting chaired by the Health and Family Welfare Minister, Choudhury Kamal Hossain was also addressed by Jatiya Sangsad members Advocate Mosharrif Hossain, Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf and M A Rouf Mia.

According to a recent decision of the government the DHSDC has been formed in all the districts with a view to ensuring better health services and hospital management in all the hospitals.

Orientation course

A five-day long teachers' orientation course on 'Mosque Based Mass Education Programme' organised by Islamic Foundation began here at Shilpakala Academy on Saturday.

A total of 48 imams from Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari districts are participating in the course.

Abdullah Khan Alam, Deputy Director Islamic Foundation, Faridpur, presided over the inaugural function while it was addressed by Advocate Sarwarja Mia, Chowdhury Mohammad Hossain and Abdul Khair.

3000 ponds unutilised in Sathkira Fish worth Tk 20 cr can be produced annually

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 18: The prospect of pisciculture in the district is bleak as most of the ponds in seven thanas have been lying unutilised due to lack of proper initiative.

There are about 6000 ponds in the district. Fifty per cent of the ponds have been silted up. Besides, a good number of ponds are full of water-hyacinth due to which fish cultivation could not be started.

Local experts disclose that if these ponds are brought under cultivation in proper way fish worth Taka 20 crore can be produced annually.

Some fishermen informed that if they get graining and necessary funds, they can increase the fish production in a considerable way.

The Fisheries Department should motivate the public and extend requisite fund for pisciculture, they expressed.

The conscious people of the district have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to re-excavate the derelict ponds and provide fund for pisciculture.

It can be mentioned here that the district has the scopes to export fishes to foreign countries meeting the local requirement.

One, Selim was arrested here with two 500 taka forged notes.

Acting on a secret information, the police raided a shop at Banskah Bazar under Sadar PS and recovered the forged notes.

A case has been registered with the local police in this connection.

Noted Freedom Fighter and former Upazila Chairman of Debbata, Shahjahan Master died of heart attack at Debbata health complex on July 24 last. He was 55.

Opposition urged to shun sweeping criticism

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), Aug 18: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister urged the opposition political parties to shun sweeping criticisms and help the government for establishing on a solid foundation and achieving the cherished goal of development in the country, reports UNB.

Dr Khandakar Mosharrif Hossain said, "every body in a democratic society has equal responsibility to build the country contributing toward maintaining peace and discipline".

The Energy Minister was addressing a public meeting at Panchgachia High School premises in Daudkandi Friday evening. The meeting was also addressed by district BNP Vice-President Obaidul Haq Bhuiyan, district Jubo Dal Convenor K M I Khalil, Thana BNP President Abdul Khalek Sarker and General Secretary Shamsul Haq.

Over three thousand leaders and workers from different political parties including Awami League, JSD (Siraj) and Jatiya Party joined BNP in the

meeting under the leadership of former UP Chairman of West Panchgachia and Awami League leader Nurul Amin.

Congratulating the new comers to the banner of BNP, the Energy Minister called upon them to work unitedly for the welfare of the people.

"We are implementing our election commitments one after another through development programmes", he said adding "but we are facing obstacles instead of cooperation from the oppositions in our development programmes".

Dr Mosharrif said that the parties which did not have any programme for the welfare of the people were creating indiscipline and chaos only to disrupt the development process initiated by the present government, says an official hand-out.

He called upon the leaders and workers of BNP to mould public opinion against such negative politics of the opposition political parties.

Earlier, the minister released fish fry to Goalmarj and Khirai lakes in Daudkandi.

15,000 weavers, potters jobless in Majdee

MAJDI COURT, Aug 18: The handlooms products and the potteries are on verge of extinction in six thanas of Noakhali district, reports UNB.

At least 3,000 handloom factories of six thanas have already been closed due to price-hike of yarn, dye and lack of capital rendering about 15,000 people jobless.

According to weavers, only about 1,000 handloom factories are now in existence which may be closed at any time. The weavers failing to cope with the present adverse situation, are shifting to other occupations.

Villagers alleged that open sale of smuggled Indian sarees, lungis, blouse piece etc. at low prices aggravated the situation.

The pottery industry are also on the verge of extinction due to high prices of clay and other inputs. Moreover, they cannot compete with the aluminium crockeries. The plastic and aluminium products have already captured the market.

A large number of potters of the district have already given up their ancestral profession and passing their days in great hardship.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to patronise both the handloom and pottery industries by giving financial assistance to save the products from extinction.

The monthly Co-ordination meeting of the district was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner.

Presided over by DC Md

Women now in fields for acute financial crisis

MADARIPUR, Aug 18: Female labourers are on increase in the district due to growing economic crisis.

According to sources, about 7,000 labourers are working in four thanas of the district. These women labourers use to earn their livelihood by husking paddy and working in brick fields and road development works.

With completion of the projects and introduction of rice mills, many of them have become jobless and are passing their days with great hardship.

The next programme of food for work has yet to be started in the district while opportunities in agriculture has also decreased to a great extent following natural calamities including tidal bore and cyclonic storm.

Besides, the pressure for dowry has forced a large number of young unmarried girls to become day labourers.

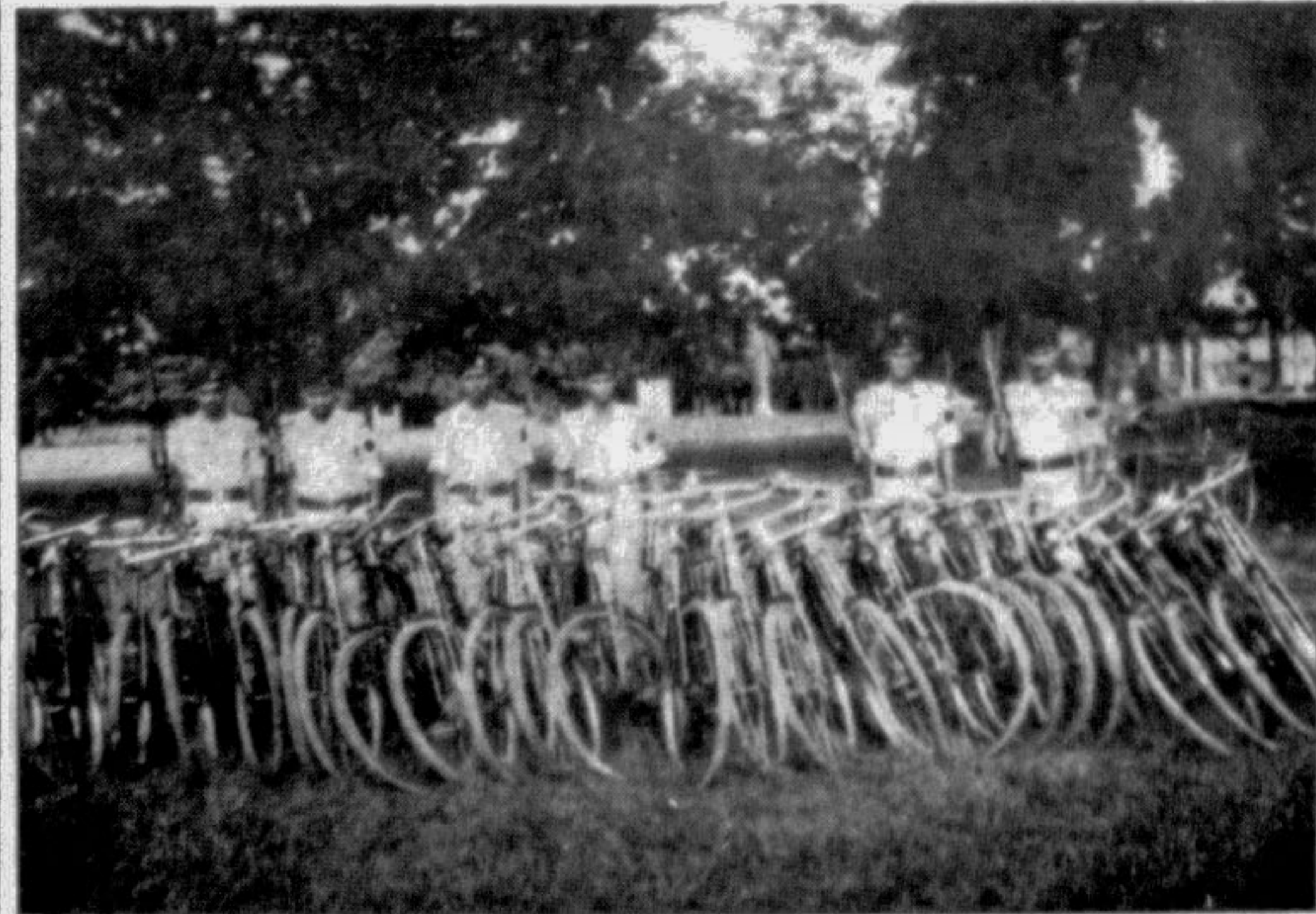
The number of drug addicts is increasing alarmingly throughout the district causing grave concern among the guardians.

According to an unofficial survey report, there are about 5,000 drug addicts in the district while about 1,500 are in the poura area.

Most of the addicts are young and married and the intoxicating items include drugs, opium tablet, liquor and Mritasaurani sura.

The rickshawpullers, day labourers, frustrated youngman and the students have become addicted to the killer drug gradually.

The survey further reveals that there are 3 hundred students drug addicts in the district. Rectified spirit is also being freely consumed as alcohol by the youths in the district town causing moral degradation.



RAJSHAHI: The BDR personnel of 20 Battalion recovered the smuggled Indian bicycles in raids at Guripara, Monipur, Lalpur and Bugmara areas of the district recently. — Star photo