Atpara gets electricity at last!

ATPARA (Netrakona), Sept 25 : Atpara a remote thana under Netrakona district, came under the national power grid recently when Energy Minister Dr Khondkar Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the electrification programme at Atpara sadar here, says BSS.

Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdul Karim, Lutfuzzaman Babar MP. Abu Abbas MP. and Chief Engineer of Power Development Board Radwan Ahmed, among others, were present on the occasion.

With the construction of the 14-kilometre power distribution line at a cost of Taka 40 lakh at this thana, 300 cliants including 22 irrigation pumps. 100 commercial lines and 200 residential lines will get power connections at the thana headquarters.

677980 couples brought under family planning programme

BARISAL, Sept 25 : About 6,77,980 fertile couples have been brought under family planning programme in 41 thanas of six southern districts under Barisal Division in twelve months, says BSS.

According to an official source, the total number of fertile couples in this division 11,75,870. Contraceptive Acceptance Rate (CAR) in these districts stood at 59.14 per cent at the end of the last fiscal year

About 1.54,657 fertile, couples were sterilised while 3,40,380 couples were provided with contraceptive oral pills, 54,082 with condoms. 41,800 with copper-T, 78,402 with contraceptive injections and 13,850 with other methods, the sources said.

Of the total acceptors 1,87,902 couples have been brought under the programme in Barisal district, 1,3,661 in Bhola 1.36.377 in Patuakhali. 70,344 in Barguna, 77,381 in Pirojpur and 54,999 in Jhalakati districts.

Journalists beaten up

CHANDPUR, Sept 25 District Correspondent of Dainik Khabar was seriously injured in an attack by a group of angry youngmen in the town on Wednesday afternoon, says

According to witnesses, the victim. Ziaur Rahman Belal while talking to district correspondent of Dainik Sangbad Shah Md Maksud in front of the Town Hall both of them came under attack by the youngmen allegedly belonged to the ruling party.

Shah Md Maksud received minor injuries while Ziaur Rahman Belal was seriously injured as he was beaten up mercilessly. Local people res cued them and took Belal to Chandpur sadar hospital where he is undergoing treatment Maksud was released after first

It is learnt that the attack was made following a report published in the front page of Dainik Khabar on Monday about Prof Md Abdullah, MP of Chandpur sadar

Chandpur Press Club con demned and protested the at

Fatal mistake

BHOLA, Sept 25: A minor girl mistakenly took poison as medicine and died instantly at a village in Tajumuddin thana of the district, police said recently, reports UNB.

According to family sources. Ria Begum, 7, daughter of Abu Taher of Chandpur village took endrin on Sept 9 taking it was syrup as the two bottles were put side by side.

A case was filed with the

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 25

The Shohagpur hat was

Shohagpur hat, one of the

largest business centre in

Sirajganj district, faces nu-

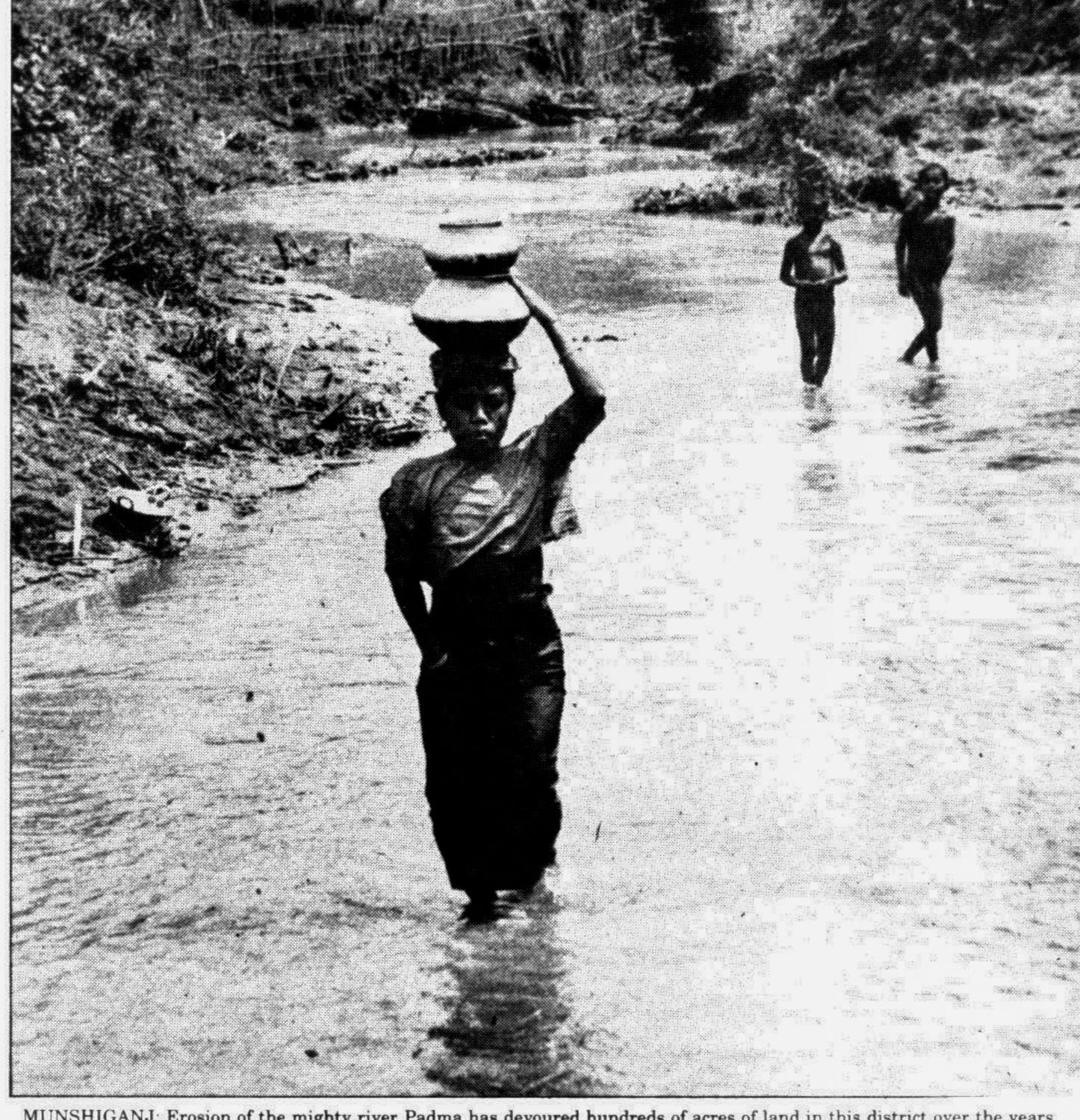
established in 1920 by the

then zamindars the hat or the

every Wednesdays. Since then

weekly market then was held

merous problems



MUNSHIGANJ: Erosion of the mighty river Padma has devoured hundreds of acres of land in this district over the years. Every year about 800 to 1000 families are forced to leave and take shelter some where else. Many people have migrated to neighbouring than as seeking shelter. This year erosion of the river continued to engulf fresh areas. This woman of Dighli village in Lauhajung thana is leaving for shelter who recently lost her land in the river erosion.

Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Tk 28.46 cr development projects implemented in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Sept 25 Fourteen development projects with a total expenditure of Taka 28.46 crore have been implemented in Moulvibazar district, according to official

Different departments and agencies of the government had taken up these projects during 1993-94 financial year. Another five development projects with an expenditure of Taka 9.97 crore are being implemented. The projects have been implemented in Maulvibazar sadar, Rajnagar, Kulaura, Baralekha, Kamalgoni and Sreemongal thanas of the

According to sources, some of the project have been financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Economic Council (EEC). United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The projects or schemes

include development of roads, culverts, and construction of bridges under Roads and Highway Department, construction, reconstruction and Repair works of different flood control embankments under the Water Development Board (WDB), development work of the health infrastructure under Public Works Department (PWD) and agri-inputs distribuschemes under Agriculture Extension Department.

According to the source of Water Development Board, Maulvibazar, the second phase programme under secondary

town integrated flood control project' with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been completed. The project which was taken up in 1993-94 financial year included construction of five kilometre long flood protection embankment and preservation of 1.30 kilometre long river bank of the Monu river near Moulvibazar town. Total expenditure of the project was

Taka 5.66 crore The source added that the Water Development Board has taken up a 3rd phase programme of 'Moulvibazar town sub-project' during the current financial year. Taka 4.45 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of the project from the ADB. This project include reconstruction of 2.40 kilometre long flood protection dam, construction of 1.34 kilometre long Moulvibazar town flood protection wall and preservation of 1.02 kilometre

long river bank. The WDB has also taken up another programme to construct 7.56 kilometre long embankment at the left bank of the Monu river from Tarapasa village to Premnagar village under Rajnagar thana Work of the project has already started. Taka 1.50 crore has been allocated from WDB's own fund, according to official

Besides, this, the WDB has taken up two schemes under 'Food For Works Programme' The schemes include construction of four kilometre

long embankment at the right bank of the Monu river from Sampashi village to Paulpur village under Sadar thana, and reconstruction of three kilometre long embankment at Hamhami Cherra. A total of one thousand 300 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned for the (two) schemes. Work of the schemes are expected to be completed by June 1995.

A source of the district Agriculture Extension Department said, they have distributed agri-inputs of Taka 23 lakh to the flood affected marginal farmers of six thanas of the district. According to the data available a total of 3,934 farmers have benefitted the programme.

Meanwhile, the Roads and

Woman robbed of Tk 8,000

SAVAR, Sept 25 : One wo man was robbed of Tk 8,000 by a gang of robbers at a village in Savar thana on Thursday police said, reports UNB

The dacoits armed with sophisticated weapons followed Anowara Begum, 40, of Kutibari village in the thana, on her way home, when she drew Tk 8,000 from the local branch of Grameen Bank on

As soon as Anowara entered into her house the dacoits swooped on the house and snatched away the money.

A case was filed with Savar

Highways Department has implemented 11 projects with an expenditure of Taka 20.25 crore. The projects included construction of a bailey bridge and a RCC bridge, 325 metre long culvert, side expansion work of 31.50 kilometre long road, carpeting of 25 kilome tre long road work of seal coat of 65 kilometre long road and earth work of 5.50 kilometre

They have constructed an other two bridges Moulvibazar-Shamsernagar highway with an expenditure of Taka 1.80 crore

Another report says, the Public Works Department (PWD) has taken up a project to develop health infrastructures of the district with an expenditure of Taka 2.22 crore. This project is being financed by the European Economic Council (EEC). The project include expansion work of main building of the Moulvibazar sadar hospital, renovation and repair works of staff quarters of the hospital and repair and renovation works of Srimongal Labour Hospital, Kamalgonj and Baralekha thana health complexes.

In the meantime, the PWD has already completed Moulvibazar nursing training centre project with an expenditure of Taka 2 32 crore Under this project PWD has constructed administrative and academic buildings, students' hostel and staff quarters, UNICEF has financed the pro-

Star photo

Housewife beaten to death

KUSHTIA, Sept 25 : A teenage housewife of a village in Mirpur thana was allegedly beaten to death on Wednesday by her husband for dowry, reports UNB.

Shirina Khatun, 19, of Noapara village was married to Shafiqul, son of Zoher Ali of Tilkandra village of the same thana three years back.

According to family sources, after the marriage Sahfiqul used to torture his wife to realise dowry of Tk 15,000.

On the fateful day, Shirina was asked to bring the dowry from her poor widow mother. When she expressed her inability Shafiqul became furious and started beating her mercilessly. Later she was rushed to Mirpur Thana Complex where she succumbed to her injuries.

Relatives of Shirina alleged that they wanted to file a case with the Mirpur police but the officer-in-charge refused to file the complaint. They also alleged that the doctors of the health complex refused to issue a death certificate. At last the body was sent to Kushtia General Hospital for post mortem.

Another report adds: At least 24 people including two women were injured in a clash between two rival groups at West Abdalpur village in sadar thana on Friday.

Villagers said, the clash en sued following a previous enmity among the groups.

Shortage of drinking water in Bhola

BHOLA, Sept 25: About 50,000 dwellers of Bhola pourashava have been suffering from Shortage of drinking wa ter due to non-implementation of the rural water supply project, reports UNB.

According to Public Health Engineering Department, it has taken up a project in 1982 to ensure adequate supply of drinking water in the pourashava area.

The proposed project included construction of four pump houses, installation of deep tubewells and 15 kilome tre connecting pipe line. But the project is yet to be com-

Local people alleged that the proposed project did not include any water preservation tank. They also said, more supply connecting lines were needed due to extension of the pourashava area.

They said, without a preser vation tank and new pipe lines about 60 per cent of the poura dwellers will not get the supply facilities.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 25: Md Abul Mansur, Additional Sessions Judge, First Court, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered recently convicted one Nuru Miah of village Naoga in Kliar Char thana of the district and sentenced him to suffer imprisonment for life on of charge murder. The accused Nuru Miah killed his wife, Delwara Begum strangulating her and later hanged the body. A case was registered with Kuliar Char police who after investigation submitted charge sheet against three persons.

15 hurt in gunbattle

At least 15 persons were injured in a gunbattle between two groups of youngmen at a place adjacent to Kishoregani railway station recently. Of the injured, ten persons with bullet injury were admitted to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital. They were, Hamid, Mahfuz, 20. Matiur. 26. Hanif 26. Masud, 18, Mamun, 17, Azad, 20. Babul 14. Abdur Rahman, 27, and Jahangir 20. Others were released after first aid.

The clash ensued over the selling of phensidyl syrup bottles. Two shops were damaged during the clash.

Current nets seized

A total of 383 current nets were seized in separate raids from different haors, rivers canals and beels of the district during the last two months.

Of the total 111 nets were seized from Nikli thana area. 57 seized in Bhairab, 105 sized in Mitamain, 46 seized in Austagram, 30 seized in Itna, 18 seized in Bajitpur and 16 seized in Karimganj thana, official sources said.

One commit suicide

One Iskandar Banu, 30, wife of Ahmed of village Chaaysuit under Kultar Char thana of the district committed suicide recently. The reason behind her committing suicide could not be known immediately.

An UD case was registered with Kuliar Char police station. The body was sent to Kishoreganj sadar hospital for post mortem. None has yet been arrested.

The popular 'Sanchay Samity' in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 25: Private savings and money lending associations have been increasing alarmingly in the district. A large number of rural people, at the same time.

type of alleged fraud business. According to report, small groups or associations have been established in many parts of the district, specially in the rural areas with the aim of developing socio-economic condition of the rural inhabitants,

These associations are lo-

have also fallen victim to this

cally known as Sanchay Samity. Primarily 25 to 100 volunteers are enlisted as members who pay between Taka 10 to Taka 500 every week which is said to be compulsory. After collecting a handsome amount, the samity committee members invites the members to apply for loan. All the members are reportedly forced to take loan at least once in every year. The rate of interest is quite high. The interest is paid selected week days. If any loanee fails to pay the interest money: it is added to the principal amount at a compound rate of interest. The samities are formed for a selected period. After that period, say 5 years, members of the respective samities arrange, what they call, 'annual general meeting'. The accounts are exposed and all the members get back their savings with a handsome amount of profit. The system of savings and money lending is conducted without disclosing to the members. For the time being benefit attracts the poor village people even the reputed businessmen in this unauthorised and illegal practice of private banking.

It is alleged that sometimes, money deposited in the samity bank account disappears and no one seems to take the responsibility for the loss. Such incidents even

sparked violence leading to serious clashes in the rural ar-

Some of the members of different sanchay samities' of villages Jhirkira in Ullapara thana, Shernagar, Muknagarti and Khridamatia in Belkuchi thana told this correspondent that the private savings and money lending associations are becoming very popular business in the areas.

The members, on enquiry, expressed satisfaction in the system of lending and savings. The higher rate of interest does not discourage them at all them because the interest collected is given back to the members as profit after closing or at annual general meeting. This has developed tremendous interest among the members specially farmers.

On observing the situation it was revealed that money deposits in other commercial banks will drastically fall if such samities activities continue to operate. The system of service charge in the commercial banks discourage the depositors. The banks take Taka 120 from every account each year if deposit is above Taka five thousand for any period within a banking year. Besides. the complicated system of loan payment and alleged corruption of a section of bank employees during loan disbursement, discouraged the rural people to go the banks. On the other, the samities ensure loan of any amount without any security except savings, and satisfied with the weekly interest if paid on time.

When contacted, some bank officials told this correspondent that they have heard of such money transaction within the samities. They admit that transaction in commercial banks has falled but they don't see any discouraging trend among the regular businessmen.

Trucks causing serious traffic jams in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE , Sept 24: Traffic movement is at stake in Jessore town following reckless movement of loaded trucks during day time deliberately disobeying traffic rules. According to sources, both

loaded and empty trucks run through town almost round the clock. Traffic movement has become quite unsafe recently. During peak-hours of day, situation worsens. Vehicles including private cars. microbuses, scooters, rickshaws, motorcycles crowd town areas. From Daratana to Kotwali thana via Chittra Cinema Hall, traffic jam caused by loaded trucks is a regular phenomena. Even pedestrians can not cross the roads safely. Stray cases of road mishaps in the town during daytime were also reported. Recently four school-going childrens were injured hit by trucks.

It is learnt, to avoid rush of traffic and road mishaps, during daytime the district administration has passed an order to traffic police saying not to allow trucks to pass through the town from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on any account. Accordingly traffic police have been posted at Palbari. Chanchra, Murali, Khajura and Central Bus Terminal on the outskirts of the town to direct truckdrivers to pass through diversion roads.

However, it is alleged that the order is not being properly executed. Drivers stop at these points and pass through town reportedly with clearance from traffic police.

A source said that pay-offs to traffic police by drivers on regular basis obtain the clear-

The Superintendent of Police said that Police Sergeant is in-charge to supervise the activities of traffic police including enforcement of the administrative order.

Inhabited by four lakh people. Jessore town is no less busier than any other crowded town of the country. Jessore is centre of link point to south and south western zone traffic routes by network of road communications.

It connects Bagerhat, Khulna, Såtkhira, Benapole, Narail with Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Faridpur Barisal and Patuakhali besides the capital and the port city Chittagong and of course North Bengal zones.

It may be noted here that

about five hundred trucks run through the district town almost everyday.

Acid thrown on school girl

SATKHIRA, Sept 25 Miscreants threw acid on a school girl leaving her critically injured at a village in Kaligani thana of the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said a group of miscreants threw acid on Masuda Khatun, 13, while she was in her room. Masuda, a student of class

eight of local high school, was shifted to Kaliganj Hospital. Her condition was stated to be critical, hospital sources said.

A case was filed with Kaliganj police in this connection. But none was arrested

Unprecedented indeed

JAMALPUR. Sept 25: Believe it or not, a male student has been declared "passed" in the SSC examination held under Dhaka Board this year who committed suicide before the commencement of the examination, according to an UNB report.

Thanks to the efficiency of the board another female candidate who was not expelled from the examination centre was shown "expelled" in the result sheet.

According to a gazette of the SSC examination published by Dhaka Education Board, Jurmat Ali, son of Hossain Fakir of village Nittogopal under sadar thana of Jamalpur. bearing roll number 667938,

was placed in the first division. Jurmat Ali, however, was a regular student of Kamalkhan' Hat High School but committed suicide due to-unknown reason, 17 days before the commencement of the examination on May 2 this year.

When asked to comment,

Jamalpur Centre, expressed concern at this, saying "it might have occurred, due to errors in the computerised-result system." Jurmat, however, was shown absent from all the examinations, he further said. A private female candidate

the Officer-in-Charge of the

Aparna Rani, bearing roll number 636438, was shown "expelled," although she was not expelled from in any exam-

The Examination-in-Charge of her centre, expressed his surprise over the incident.

It may be mentioned here that a number of incidents of discrepancies occurred in this year's SSC result sheets. An official of Dhaka Board, on condition of anonymity, admitted

"Unprecedented anomalies were traced out in the results of the SSC examination this year and some corrupted employees of the board are responsible for it," he added.

the hat has been eroded by the Jamuna and was shifted in three different places. At present the hat is located on Mukundaganti Mouza by the side of Brahmaputra flood control embankment and Belkuchi Degree College. The volume of business at Shohagpur hat have sharply increased over the years

Shohagpur business centre

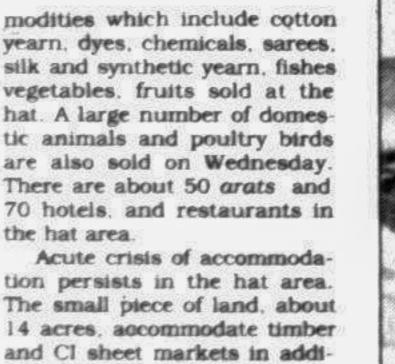
in Sirajganj in poor shape

From Our Correspondent

Minimum transaction amount ing to Taka about 10 crore takes place at the hats. On Tuesday, the handloom products are sold and on Wednesday, all sots of comyearn, dyes, chemicals, sarees, silk and synthetic yearn, fishes vegetables, fruits sold at the hat. A large number of domestic animals and poultry birds are also sold on Wednesday. There are about 50 arats and 70 hotels, and restaurants in the hat area. Acute crisis of accommoda-

tion persists in the hat area. The small piece of land, about 14 acres, accommodate timber and CI sheet markets in addition to others. The shopkeepers and vendors sit on the roads and flood control embankment causing frequent

ernment spent Tk 17, lakh to improve the condition of the hat. HBB roads, a police box. drains, sheds for fish and meat markets and pucca platforms were constructed.



Only a year ago, the gov-



SIRAJGANJ: An aerial view of the Shohagpur business centre