

### Bomb blast leaves two dead in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Feb 8: Two people were killed and five others injured in a bomb blast near a shrimp 'gher' (enclosure) at a village in Debhanga thana early Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said the explosion took place shortly after midnight when supporters of last year's lease-holder of the 'gher' were making bombs near the enclosure in Shimulbaria village.

Villagers said tension was prevailing following dispute between the two groups over fixation of this year's lease money.

The dead were identified as Azizul Islam (35) and his nephew Khokon (30). The injured workers were reportedly absconding to avoid arrest.

### Workshop on credit for poverty alleviation through commercial banks

Feb 8: A day-long workshop on "credit for poverty alleviation through commercial banks". The Framework of Small Farmers and Landless Labourers Development Project of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) was inaugurated at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla on 1st February 1995, says a BARD press release.

The objective of the project is to increase production, employment and income of the small farmers and landless labourer through formation of small homogeneous groups, in collection of savings habit among group members for generation of own capital, and provision for credit support to them through a commercial bank for undertaking various income generating activities.

A total of about one hundred high and mid level officials from different government, non-government and international organisations attended the workshop.

The session was inaugurated by the speech of Dr Mohammad Haroonur Rashid, Member, Planning Commission as chief guest. Md Mahe Alam, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operative Division and Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, Secretary, Banking Division was present in the workshop as special guest.

### Posts of 150 physicians lying vacant in Khulna Div

KHULNA, Feb 8: Treatment of patients in different government hospitals in Khulna Division is being hampered seriously due to shortage of physicians, reports UNB.

Official sources said at present about 150 posts of doctors in different hospitals have been lying vacant for a pretty long time.

Only 541 Assistant Surgeons have been working in different hospitals as against 11.1 million population of the division.

About 80 Assistant Surgeons have been staying abroad for long. As a result, the working doctors have been facing problems to attend the increasing number of patients.

The patients alleged that in most of the hospitals and health complexes necessary medicines are hardly available and they are to purchase the same from outside at high prices.

They also alleged that the diet supplied by the hospital authority is of low quality and bedsheets and pillow covers remain dirty most of the time.

## Serious fodder crisis in Jessore, milk production falls by 50 pc

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 8: A total of 180 dairy farms in greater Jessore, are facing closure following acute scarcity of fodder.

According to a number of dairy farm owners, establishment of dairy farms at private initiative has been encouraged by government recently. But no step has been taken for supply of fodder. As a result, market price of fodder has gone beyond purchasing capacity deepening the crisis for the owners of dairy farms.

It is learnt that demand for fodder in the district has increased largely due to growth of new dairy farms in the area. But the supply position of fodder remains unchanged. Thus, widening gap between demand and supply of fodder.

According to reports, a bag

of auto-rice-polish weighing 50 kgs, is selling at Taka 300. Two months ago it was sold at Taka 180. One bag of wheat husk of same weight is selling at Taka 320 while a few months back, it was available at Taka 200. Price of keshari-husk bag weighing 50 kgs cost Taka 250. It was sold at Tk 140 earlier.

Inadequate supply of fodder has adversely affected market price, hampering milk production.

This situation has led to closure of a number of dairy farms in the district recently.

A source said most of the dairy farms in Jessore town were set-up under bank credit facilities.

Closure of farms due to fodder crisis and progressive de-

cline in milk production, has generated problems for the bank loanees.

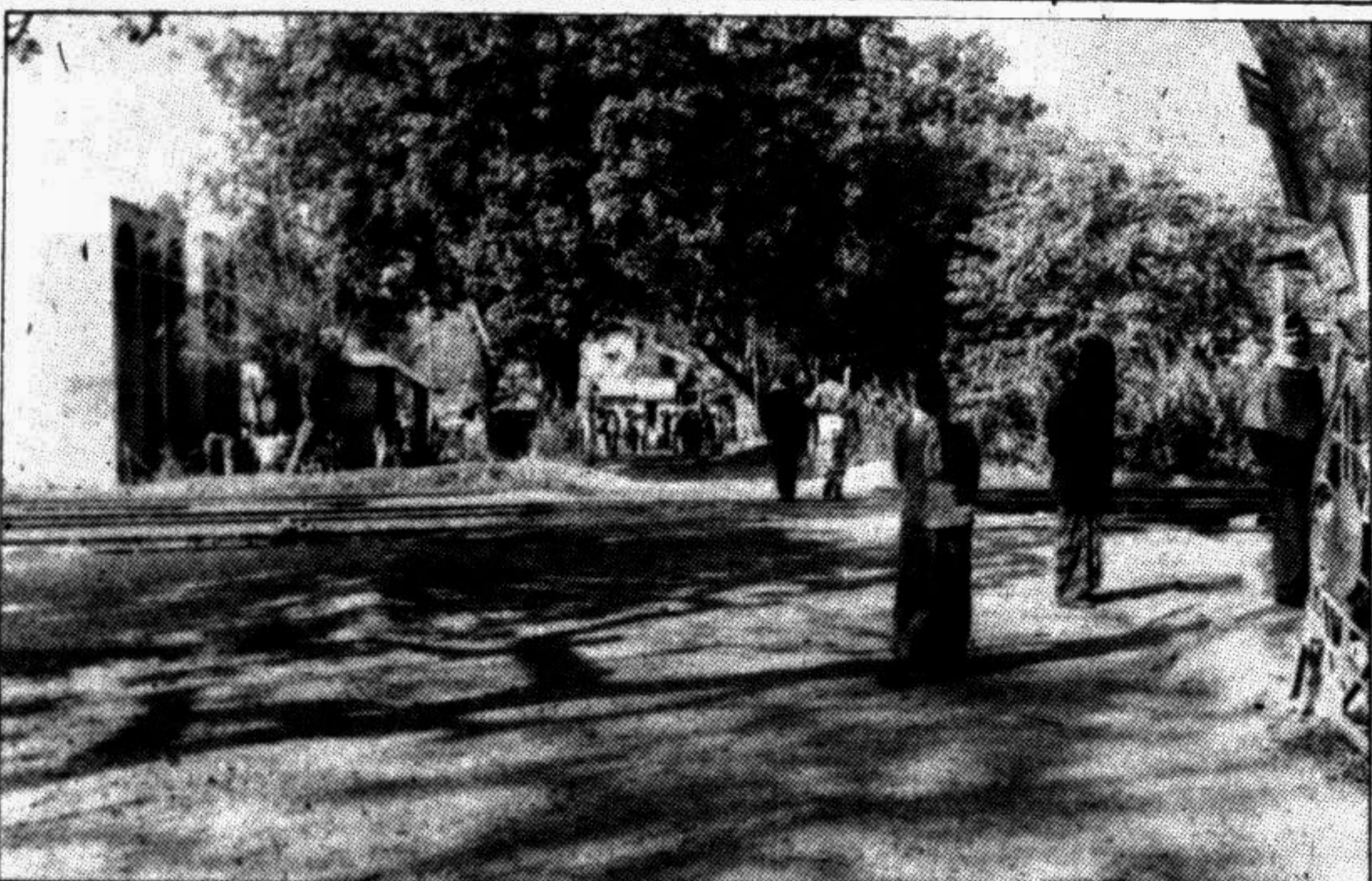
It is learnt, the local Krishi Bank provided credit facilities for setting up of the dairy farms at private initiatives. On the other, these dairy farms owners are now facing trouble as to how and when they could repay the bank loans. The whole picture is very dismaying. The general secretary of Jessore dairy farm owners association said that all dairy farms in greater Jessore are facing threat of existence under mounting crisis of fodder.

He said that a few months ago, a total of two thousand five hundred litres of milk was produced from 45 dairy farms in Jessore everyday, not to speak of other areas of greater

Jessore. The quantity of production has reduced by more than 50 per cent following price hike of fodder.

The general secretary, also complained whenever price of rice goes up, rationing system is introduced on priority basis to control the market. Surprisingly, fodder crisis in the market is persisting since long but no initiative was taken to control the price of fodder in the areas.

He predicted, if their situation continued further, all dairy farms would be affected seriously, recovery of bank loan would be uncertain and simultaneously the ambitious programme of government would end in a disaster.



DINAJPUR: The rail tracks divide Bangladesh-India border at the Hili border or better known as Bangla Hili. The road on the other side leads to Indian Hili town. The building on the left is the Indian customs house. Hundreds of travellers pass through this customs check post everyday. —Star photo

## Over 70pc people suffer due to water crisis in Natore

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Feb 8: Drinking water crisis has become acute in Natore pourea area, it is learnt.

Most of the town dwellers have been compelled to carry out household works including cooking and bathing with using water from ponds and ditches as water supply in the town is not sufficient to meet the rising demand.

According to concerned sources, about 22 lakh gallon of water is required for about 80 thousand people in the pourea areas. But only five lakh gallon of water is being supplied in the town at present.

As a result, about 70 per cent people of Natore town are deprived of drinking water.

Another source said that about 18 thousand people of the town can managed to drink water.

It is learnt that due to igno-

rance of the municipal authority many poor people carry out their household jobs including bathing using the contaminated water from different nearby ponds and canals. A concerned sources informed that the number of these poor people is over 10 thousand in the town.

Many people have tubewells in their houses. But, in some cases, the tubewells supply dirty water due to leakage on the under-ground pipes. Sometimes, the places surrounding the tubewells are unhygienic.

For using the dirty water, many people are suffering from several kinds of diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery etc.

It is also reported that authorities could not supply enough water as one of the three water-lifting tubewells has been remaining out of

order for a long. People of Alipur, Meerpara, Mollikhata, Kandvitua, Kanaikhal, Patuapara, Lalbazar, Kapuriaipotty, Chowkpir, Palpara, Calkrampur, Uparbazar, and Station Bazar areas are the main sufferers.

The inhabitants of these areas informed the concerned authorities about their miseries caused by the water crisis, some inhabitants said. But, they added, no steps have been taken in this matter so far.

There is only over-head water tank in the town. This water tank is not enough to meet the demand of 80 thousand people in the town, a reliable source said.

People of Natore have de-manded construction of one more over-head water tank in the town for driving out the present water crisis.

### New record

From Our Correspondent. RAJSHAHI, Feb 8: The Physics Department of Rajshahi University has created a new record in publishing result after one day of finishing examination, M.Sc (Physics) general group session 1991. The examination concluded on Feb 4 and results were published on Feb 6 last. Sixty students appeared in the examination and 86 per cent students came out successful.

Azharul Islam, Chairman of the examination committee said if the teachers be cordial in publishing result all of the departments will be able to publish result within short time.

### Oops sorry!

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 8: Three muggers were nabbed as they mistakenly attacked a tempo of patrolling police at Mirpur Road of the town early Monday, reports UNB.

Police said: they arrested Ismail Hossain 22, Mozammel Haq 20 and Imran 20 as they swooped on the tempo along with their accomplices at about 2 am.

The muggers attacked the tempo, carrying five cops, assuming them a bridal party.

### Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.22 cr seized from Satkhira in Jan

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 8: The anti-smuggling drive has been geared up by the BOR personnel of 21 battalion Satkhira through out the bordering areas of the district recently. The BDR personnel recovered huge quantities of smuggled goods worth Taka one crore 22 lakh 63 thousand 3 hundred 82 during the month of January this year.

A total of 12 alleged smugglers were arrested and seven cases were lodged with different police stations of the district during the period.

It is reported that the BDR personnel recovered smuggled goods worth Taka one crore 20 lakh 94 thousand 2 hundred 42 while being smuggled into Bangladesh from India and smuggled goods worth Taka one lakh 69 thousand one hundred while being smuggled out of Bangladesh into India during the period.

The smuggled goods included sugar, salt, cow hide and skin, Indian Sarees, blouse pieces, pulises, medicines, bicycles, cycle parts, machinery, cosmetics, utensils, silver, gold, bronze, bidi, diesel, potatoes, garlic, onion, polyester cloths, etc.

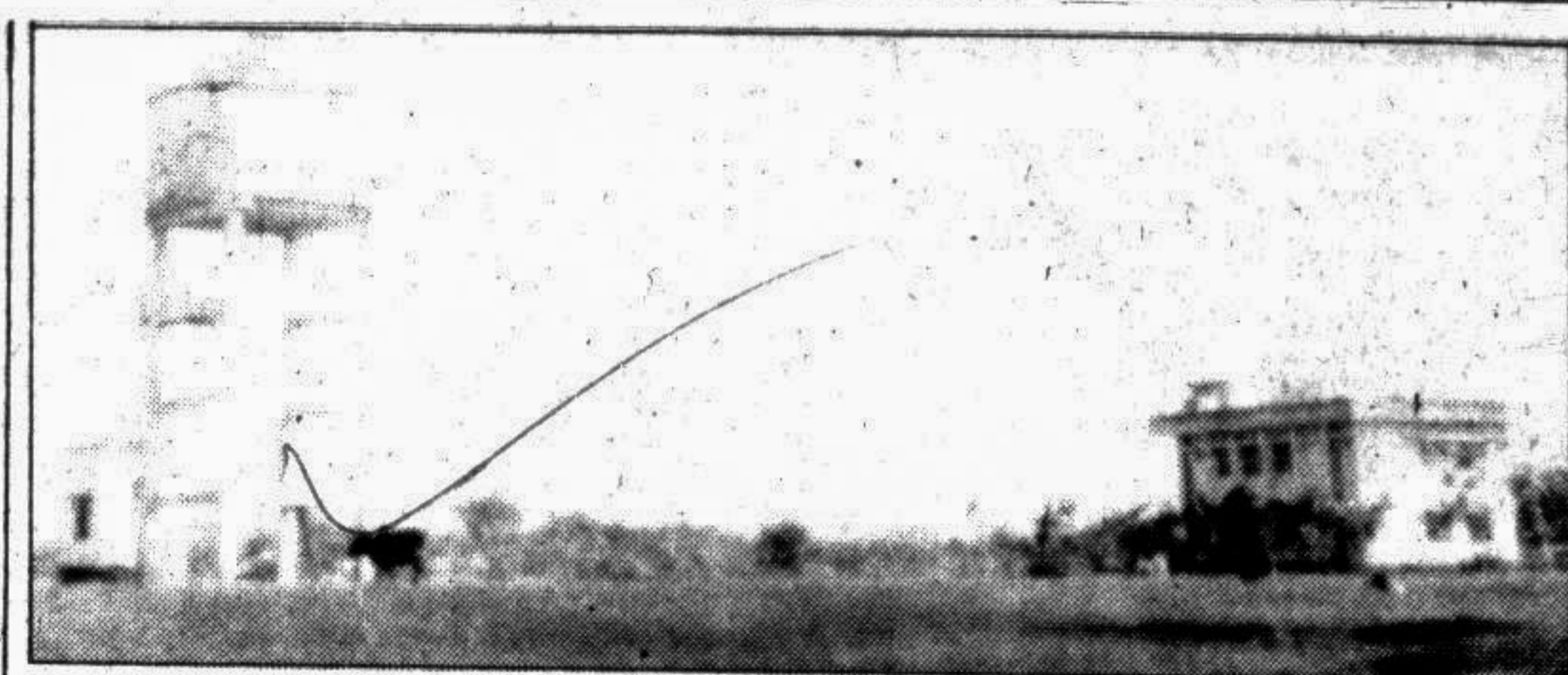
### Primary edn programme in Manikganj faces set-back

MANIKGANJ, Feb 8: The Universal Primary Education Programme has been facing set-back in the district due to shortage of teachers, necessary appliances and miserable condition of school buildings, reports UNB.

Local guardians said though the government has undertaken a programme "Education for all by the year 2000 AD" but the facilities extended were quite inadequate to implement the ambitious programme.

They said most of the schools have no sufficient educational materials, furniture and teachers. Besides, a good number of schools damaged by flood, cyclone and other natural calamities over the last few years are yet to be reconstructed.

Many students of those schools attend their classes under the open sky and it becomes very difficult in the rainy season to prosecute their studies.



GOPALGANJ: The empty land of BSCIC industrial estate in the district. The ambitious plan to invite investors may go down the drain if they (BSCIC) fail to encourage interested investors. —Star photo

## BSCIC in Gopalganj gets poor response from investors

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Feb 8: The BSCIC industrial estate has become the pasture land as the industrial estate was not constructed according to the plan in the last seven years in Gopalganj.

The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries, BSCIC started its operation for providing economic assistance to the investors of small and cottage industries in a rented house in 1986. Since then, ten acres of land was acquired at a cost of Taka three and half lakh next to the river Madhumati in the western side of Gopalganj town. During the year 1987-88 the earth work of the industrial estate was completed spending Taka eighteen lakh. The construction of the administrative building and the overhead water tank were completed at the cost of Taka fifteen lakh and fifty thousand in the fol-

lowing year. In the financial year of 1989-90, the roads inside the proposed industrial estate was done. Since then no work of roads, buildings, culverts, drains and electrification of the industrial estate was done as per the plan.

An official of the industrial centre of BSCIC at Gopalganj told The Daily Star that the proposed industrial estate will require 1850 KV supply of electricity but the highest capacity of the PDB distribution station at Gopalganj is 22 KV only. As such the Power Development Board (PDB) repeatedly regretted BSCIC's requests for the electricity supply for the estate. The PDB authority also failed to assure immediate and required power supply to the industrial estate. For this very reason establishment of industrial units has not increase rather others who showed interest are now being

discouraged. Only Taka eight lakh have been distributed among the investors by the commercial banks since the BSCIC started operation at Gopalganj. The BSCIC has no bank of its own and the commercial banks are reportedly not cooperating in giving loans and the investors have been losing their interest in building up industries in the estate.

Moreover, the BSCIC authorities have been facing non-cooperation from the Telegraph and Telephone Department in securing the telephone connections.

It is urgently required to resolve the deadlocks of the proposed industrial estate of the BSCIC for building up industries in the under-developed district of Gopalganj without any industry and to provide the unemployed with jobs.



GOPALGANJ: The picture shows the squash game building constructed some ten years ago on ten kathas of land between the town stadium and the mosque in Bankpara. It is reported that the building was never used for the purpose it was built for. The building was constructed at the cost of Tk 3.75 lakh by the construction firm, Beta Syndicate. The officials of the firm claim that the concerned department has not yet paid the construction bill although construction of the building was completed. The building is now reportedly used for anti-social activities. —Star photo

### Child killed, five others hurt in road mishap

BARISAL, Feb 8: A girl-child was killed and five other members of her family were seriously wounded in a road mishap at Bharatkati in Nalchhari thana Saturday, police and hospital sources here said, reports UNB.

Tanni, 8, succumbed to her injuries at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) while Suman, 3, Shahin 19, Jahur 20, Rita, 24, and Israel, 30, were admitted into the hospital.

According to police, a Barguna bound bus hit a rickshaw-carrying eight members of a family at Bharatkati at 9 am today, leaving six passengers wounded. The injured were sent to the SBMCH where critically wounded Tanni expired.

### Young girl commits suicide

BHOLA, Feb 8: A teen-aged girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at Shipur union in sadar thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim identified Chaina Begum, 16, was a teacher of a mass education centre of the union.

Police said, Chaina enjoyed a TV programme at her neighbour's house and returned home. But after a few minutes she allegedly committed suicide.

### On highways Overloading of vehicles

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Feb 8: Overloading of the buses and minibuses plying on Jamalpur-Madarganj, Jamalpur-Melandah, Jamalpur-Mymensingh, Jamalpur-Tangail, and Jamalpur-Sherpur roads is regular feature. Due to the overloading of vehicles accidents occur frequently.

At least 12 persons were killed in bus accidents on these roads during the last one month.

Bus passengers travelling on these roads have been facing untold suffering for lack of amenities for a long time.

The miserable condition of the roads, due to the negligence of the concerned authority, misbehaviour of the helpers, conductors and drivers, overloading and stands without waiting sheds and toilets are the main causes of suffering of the passengers.

It is alleged that conductors of most buses and minibuses realise fares at unauthorized rates from passengers.

According to a report there are no waiting shed and latrines in Jamalpur town old bus stand. As a result, the passengers suffer much.

Our two lakh people travel by buses and minibuses using these roads every week.

The passengers, especially children and women suffer much at the bus stands for want of waiting sheds. They suffer when it rains. Female passengers face immense difficulties due to lack of latrines and urinals.

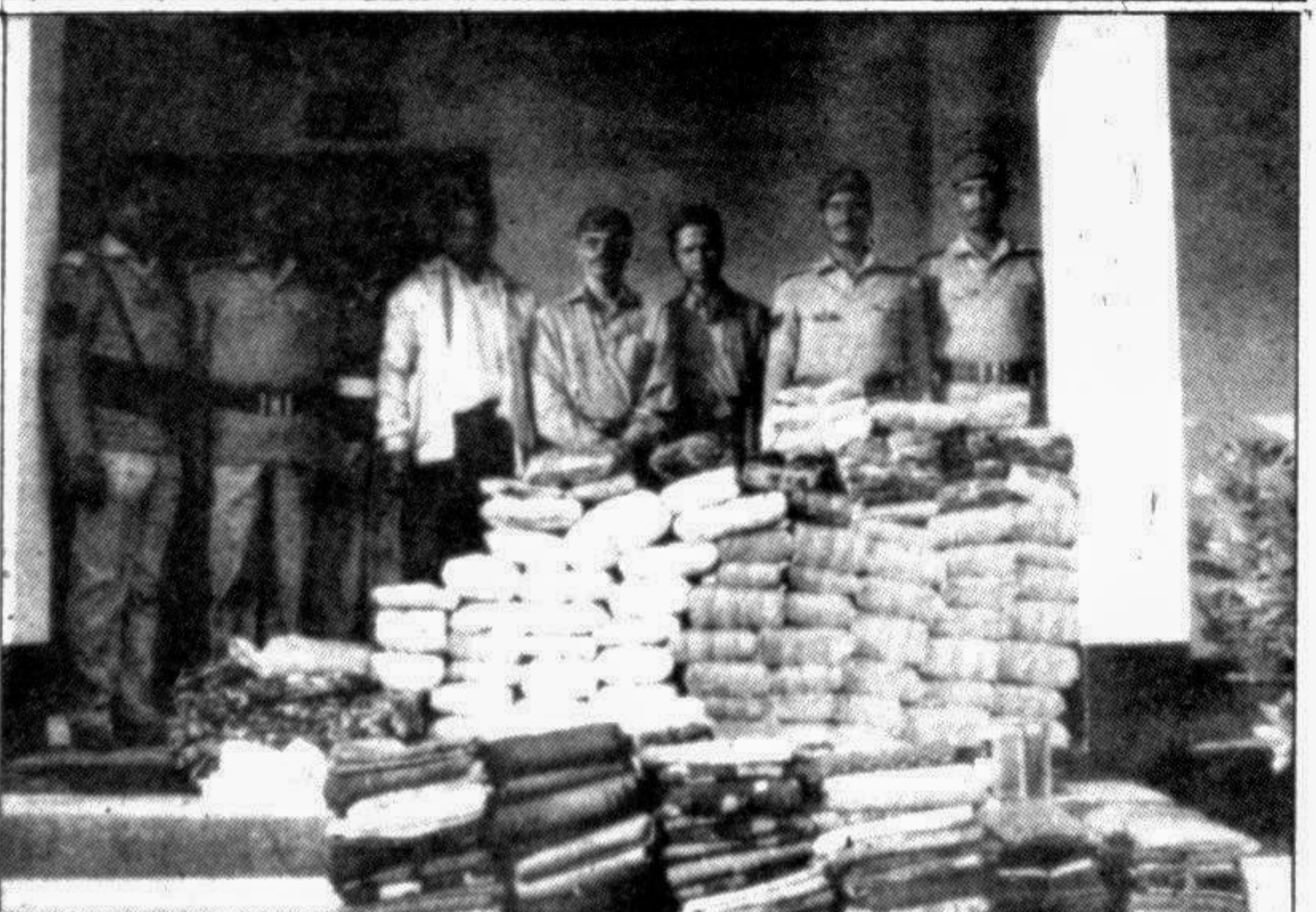
The 24 kilometers long Jamalpur-Madarganj road and 13 kilometers long Jamalpur-Melandah road is in dilapidated conditions. Numerous cracks and potholes have developed on the roads. At present these two roads have become unfit for the plying of vehicles.

Jamalpur-Nandina road has not been completely metalled. The road was badly damaged by 1988 flood.

While plying on these roads the heavy vehicles have to risk any fatal accident.



COMILLA: About 79 pieces of hospital gowns were donated by the National Association for Resource Improvement (NARI) for the Comilla modern hospital, gynecology department patients recently. The gowns will mostly be used by post-operation patients to avoid infections. The president of the organisation (NARI), Hasna Moudud (Second from L) handed over the gowns to Dr Mariam Farooki of gynecology department of the hospital.



SATKHIRA: The BDR personnel of the district recovered huge quantities of smuggled Indian goods worth Taka 20 lakh from two private cars near Bakal bridge. The photo shows the seized goods in front of the district BDR office. —Star photo