

### Pipe gun, stolen motor cycle recovered

From Our Correspondent  
SATHKHIRA, June 12: Sathkira sadar thana police recovered one Indian made pipe gun including three round of cartridges from the graveyard of Ramnagar village under Debhata thana on June 6 last.

According to police sources, acting on a secret information a group of police force led by CA Halim, Officer incharge of Sathkira sadar thana arrested Islam and Kashem, both of Ramnagar village under Debhata thana from Kulla village of the same thana.

After their confession, police recovered the arm and ammunitions.

A case was lodged with Sathkira sadar thana in this connection.

### Crops worth Tk 10 crore damaged in Bhola

BHOLA, June 12: Standing crops worth about Tk 10 crore were damaged in seven thanas of the district in the tidal surge that lashed the country's coastal belt last month, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department and district administration, rabi crops on 10,000 acres of land worth about 5.5 crore were totally damaged in the calamity that occurred from May 15-17.

Besides, aus paddy on 5,000 acres of land worth about Tk 2 crore, Boro on 457 acres worth Taka one crore, pepper on 1,000 acres worth Tk 50 lakh and 'teel' on 800 acres worth Tk 60 lakh were damaged, the sources said.

Summer vegetables on about 1,000 acres of land worth Tk 25 lakh were also partially damaged in the surge.

Government is yet to take up any rehabilitation programme for the affected farmers.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department of the district told UNB that a proposal of Tk 68 lakh agriculture rehabilitation programme has been sent to the higher authorities for consideration.

Apart from the worst affected agricultural sector, infrastructures including embankment, roads and educational institutions were also damaged in the district.

### Five commit suicide in Sathkira

From Our Correspondent  
SATHKHIRA, June 12: Five persons committed suicide in different areas of Kaligonj thana during the period of seven days from May 26 to June 3 last.

According to Kaligonj thana police source, one Bachchu Kha, 35, son of Gour Chandra Kha of village Mukundapur committed suicide by hanging himself in a branch of a tree, near his house on May 26 last.

On May 27, one Mira Rani, 20, of Nalta village committed suicide by taking poison. In another incident one housewife, Amena Khatun, 26, committed suicide by drinking poison on May 29 last.

On June 1, one Kalipada Mondal, 65, of village Demrail committed suicide by hanging himself and one housewife, Ambia Khatun, 18, of village Dhalbaria committed suicide by taking poison on June 3 last.

Family troubles are the cause of their suicide it is learnt. Separate cases were lodged with Kaligonj PS.

### Soldier killed in road mishap in Khagrachhari

From CHT Correspondent  
MATIRANGA (Khagrachhari), June 12: A member of the armed forces was killed and 10 other sustained injuries when a passenger-carrying jeep turned turtle at Matiranga thana head quarters on Thursday.

The Matiranga thana police identified the dead as Lance Naik Asaduzzaman, 32. The identification of 10 injured passengers were not available, who received first-aid from different sources.

The passenger-carrying jeep locally known as chandergarhee bearing number Rangamati BA-1671 was scheduled to reach Matiranga from Khedachhora of the district.

The police took the jeep into custody while the driver and the conductor managed to fled.

## Over 3,000 candidates likely to be barred from HSC exams

Fake registration detected in JB

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 12: Over three thousand HSC candidates under Jessore Education Board are likely to be barred from appearing at the coming HSC examination following the cancellation of their fake registration by the Board authority. All formalities in this connection are in process of completion.

According to Board sources, this decision has been taken when false statements were detected in SIFs (Students Information Forms) sent by principals of colleges in respect of candidates during the scrutiny.

When contacted, Chairman of Jessore Education Board, Professor Hasan Wazir in an interview with The Daily Star, said, total number of HSC candidates barred from taking exams is not alarming like that of SSC examination.

Though the actual figure will not be available before submission of the enquiry report, it will however not exceed three thousand, he

added. He said number of candidates barred in SSC, were 15 thousand. All were due to fake registration.

The case in HSC is different. Admittance of students from one college to another without TC (Transfer Certificate) from the previous colleges and without Board's prior permission, was the common case. He blamed principals' of concerned colleges for their irregularities and malpractices.

He also informed that enquiry team headed by Professor Nazrul Islam of Rajshahi University with two other members including Professor Maqbul Uddin Ahmed of BM College, Barisal and Colonel Mosharraf Mia of Jhenidah Cadet College has been formed to look into the matter and report back shortly. Actions will be taken against the persons found involved in the scandal, the Chairman added.

It was learnt that two officers and four other Board staff have been already suspended

for their role in taking registration of SSC candidates detected during the enquiry, conducted Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Gias Uddin Ahmed, who was assigned by government for this purpose. It was also learnt from the Chairman that all principals of concerned colleges numbering 147 have been asked to explain their position regarding the scandal.

The Chairman, told that meanwhile, 45 principals, have complied with Board's letter. Total number of colleges under Jessore Board is 240, he informed.

Controller of HSC examination said that number of HSC candidates this year is 90 thousand from Jessore Board.

When asked whether any steps have been taken to stop the malpractice by heads of colleges in future, he said that registrations will be computerized from next year and this will possibly stop faking registration.

### Three convicted criminals arrested after 3 years

From Our Correspondent  
MOULVIBAZAR, June 12: Three convicted criminals were arrested by Kulara thana police after three years, recently.

According to a police officer at Kulara thana of the district, the arrested criminals were involved in a case filed by the Forest Department and were sentenced to suffer imprisonment for six months each by the first class magistrate court of Moulvibazar in absentia on 1992.

Acting on a secret information, a police team of Kulara thana raided a house at Bara-Dahar under Kulara thana and arrested three criminals named Rajib Ali, 40, Samed Ali, 37 and Md Younus, 30.

### Mad dog menace in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent  
GAIBANDHA, June 12: At least 50 persons received injuries by mad dogs in Mohimaganj area under Gobindaganj thana, it is alleged.

Mad dog menace has multiplied as the number of pyedogs increased alarmingly in the area during the last two months. The children are the main victims of dog bites. The critically injured victims are Manik, 7, Modhu, 8, Shaheen, 5, Pervez, 8, Salina, 9, Chikeru, 11, Sumita, 6, all of whom were recently attacked and bitten by pye-dogs on the streets.

Besides, many of the adult and aged persons, cattle and poultry birds are also attacked by the dogs. After evening local dwellers specially the children do not come out in fear of dog bite.

On the other hand hydrophobia vaccine is not available in the local health complex. Some drug dealers although arranged the vaccine which is being sold at Tk. 2,200 per course. Poor people cannot afford the vaccine for its exorbitant price.

## Chairmen defalcate college fund DC's order to refund money ignored, colleges face closure

From CHT Correspondent

MATIRANGA (Khagrachhari), June 12: The fund constraint in Matiranga College has taken a serious turn causing an impasse in over all functioning of the college as the eight project chairmen, who defalcated college fund amounting to Taka 22,61,806 have been avoiding refund ignoring the Deputy Commissioner's order even after passing more than two months' time, said Nurul Islam Khan, the principal of the college.

The collection of fund from the monthly quota of the cluster villagers, the only major source of fund for the college, was suspended by the Deputy Commissioner following the on-going fund scandal which multiplied the devastation of the College. Principal Khan told The Daily Star, adding that the teachers and the Staff are not getting their salaries for the last two months.

Immediately with the establishment in 1992, Matiranga College is being run on the voluntary donation of the inmates of the cluster villages of the thana to ensure higher secondary education of their children. Eight hundred 512 card holders of the seven cluster villages in the thana would compulsorily donate two kilogram of grain monthly towards college fund. The concerned project chairmen would collect the grains from the cardholders directly, sell it in the open market and deposit the sale-proceeds in the bank. They would submit the counter-foil of the deposit to

the college principal. This was being done under an executive order of the Thana Nirbahi Officer, who by dint of his position, is the President of the College Executive Committee and this was being done from the very establishment of the college, the Principal said.

On an allegation made by the President of the Matiranga Thana Unit of Khagrachhari based organisation Bangali Krishak Sramik Kalyan Parishad Shamsuddin to the effect that the sale-proceeds of the ration collected from the cardholders of the cluster villages were being not properly deposited rather it was defalcated by the collectors, Shamsuddin sought on the spot immediate investigation into the matter. The Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari hill district, in response, entrusted the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Mohammad Zahirul Haque to investigate into the allegation.

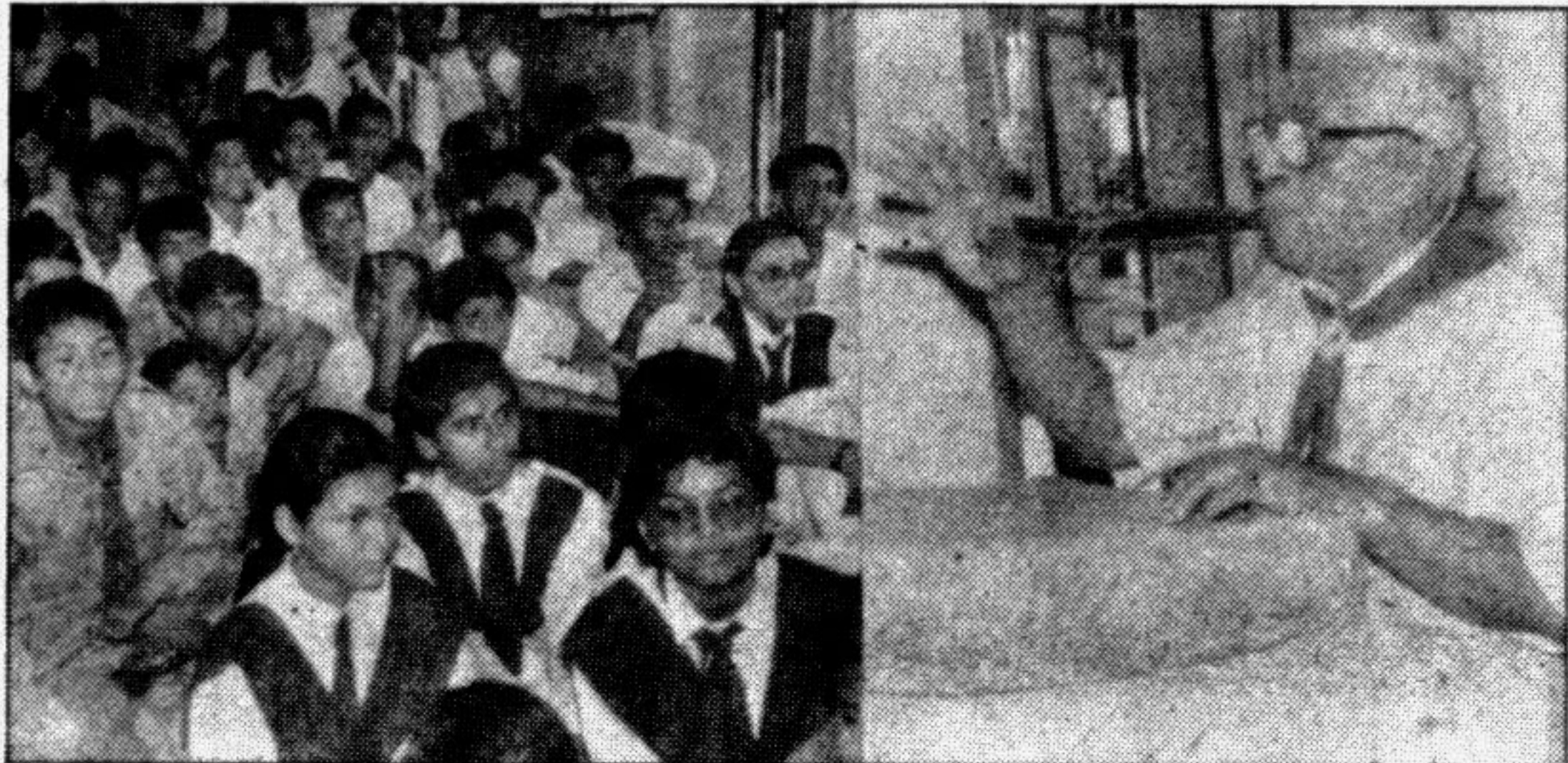
The additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev) is in the report vide his number ADC (R)-4/95-87 (G) dated 21.03.95 after an intensive enquiry stated that the concerned eight project chairman have defalcated Taka 22,61,806 out of the total sale-proceeds of the ration collected from September 1992 to August 1994 amounting to Taka 43,37,544. And amount of Taka 20,75,734 was however, deposited to the bank by them, the report says.

During the period, a quantity of 3,14,944 Kilogram of rice worth Taka 35,71,464 and 1,02,144 Kilogram of wheat worth Taka 7,66,080 was collected from the seven cluster villages. The cost was estimated according to the then prevailing market rate of the commodities.

The enquiry reported further says that the project chairman of Belchhari Kashem Bhuiyan, Project Chairman of Taindong Abdul Malek, Project Chairman of two projects at Guimara Manzoor Ahmed and Abdul Khaleq, Project Chairman of another project at Belchhari Amin Miah, Shamsul Haque of Gumati project, Shah Alam of Borna Project and Manik Miah of Matiranga Project defalcated Taka 4,19,333, 2,14,104, 84,834, 29,547, 4,23,553, 5,51,558 2,06,855 and 3,31,607 respectively.

Considering the acute financial constraint of the College, the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari hill district Mohammad Ismail on the basis of enquiry report in the separate directives directed the chairmen to refund the defalcated money in full within 10 days to college fund on April 4,95. But with passing out of more than two months no money was refunded.

To save the College from closure, the concerned circle urged the authority to arrange immediate realisation of the defalcated fund and restoration of collection of ration from the cluster villages entrusting honest people.



SYLHET: Khondaker Abdul Malik, MP, speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting arranged by Aroni Mukta Scouts in observance of World Environment Day. — Star photo

### Malaria attack in Sunamganj

## Thousands of people passing their days amid panic

From Iqbal Siddiquee

It forced many people to leave their homesteads just to avoid the attack of the disease. At least 200 people died of the disease in one single cluster village, unofficial reports say. About 150 people were being attacked by the disease every day while more than 100 patients, mostly from poor families, were seeking treatment at various thana health complexes, officials say adding, most victims are pregnant women and children.

SYLHET, June 12: Rangarchar, a union under Sunamganj sadar thana stands at the feet of the Meghalaya hills, across the Indian border. Thousands of people in the villages of the union are passing their days amid panic. The fatal disease Cerebral Malaria has claimed many lives in these villages

the attack of the disease. They took shelter in the houses of relatives living for away. They had no alternative.

At least two hundred people died of the disease in Naranatala, guchchhagram, (cluster village) Mangalkata, Gudigaon, Kaunervita, Fenibeel, Chowmuhani bazar, Ampara and

Health officials said, the situation started improving following spraying of DDT which was started in the area during that last week of May. Most of the malaria patients are poor farmers and day labourers. They do not have the means to buy a mosquito net. While talking to this correspondent, UP

mediately he said. Some physicians working in the malaria-hit villages said, most of the patients were attacked twice or more. The main cause of it, they said, the patients do not complete the prescribed dose of the medicines. It also causes some side affects, they added. Besides, acute scarcity of nutritious food also attribute much to the situation. It reduces the resistance power of a patient they informed. At least, 100 to 150 patients are coming to the Temporary Medical Camps at Chowmuhana bazar Wai Mission Primary School. The chief of Narayantala Christian Mission has termed the situation as very serious. Abdul Quddus Miah, a primary school teachers alleged that at least 50 people died of the killer disease recently at village Naranatala alone.

The death figures show that, pregnant women and children are the major victims. According to the official records, 24 were pregnant women out of the 59 deaths recently recorded in the area. These women could not be given high dose, they said. The number of child victims stood at 15.

Like many others, the malaria-hit and panic stricken people now need nutritious food, alongwith the necessary medicines. While talking to this correspondent many villagers said, we cant not even afford a glass of milk due to poverty.

It is widely felt that, government agencies welfare organisations, NGOs and well-to-do people of the society should come forward to provide these poor people with nutritious food, pesticide and mosquito nets.



SYLHET: Some malaria affected patients of village Naranpara of Rangarchar union of Sunamganj sadar thana. — Star photo

during the last five months. Most of the villagers are now offering prayers to get rid of the 'Khodoyee Gajab'.

The disease, Malaria began spreading from the month of January, this year in the different villages of Rangarchar. It forced many people to leave their homesteads just to avoid

Mokampara villages. However the official sources put the death toll caused by the killer disease at below one hundred. Even not a single village was spared from invasion of the killer disease. Almost all houses were attacked. There are many people who had been attacked 4 to 5 times.

member Muksed Ali said, at least one hundred to 150 people are being attacked by the disease everyday. It is not possible to save the people except immediate arrangement for distribution of pesticide and distribute mosquito nets. Large-scale spraying of DDT should also be launched im-



SYLHET: Malaria patients crowd a temporary medical camp at Rangarchar union of Sunamganj sadar thana. — Star photo



SYLHET: AHM Mofazzal Karim, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock speaking at the first meeting of the Advisory Council of the newly established Jalalabad Medical College recently. Jalalabad Medical College is the first private medical college in greater Sylhet district. — Star photo

### From Rajshahi-C'nawabganj region

## Despite unfavourable weather bumper mango output likely

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 12: Despite adverse weather and prolonged hot spell, it is hoped that production of mango this season will exceed the records of last 15 years. About 3 lakh tons of mango is expected to be harvested during the current season, sources say.

This is the high time of mango. The markets of the main mango producing areas of the country — Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj have already been flooded with various species of mangos. These markets have already become overcrowded by the sellers and buyers from different places of the country. The price of mango is also comparatively low this year. Gopalbhog, kher-shapat and langra, three best species, are selling at Tk 300 to 400/- per 100 mangoes in the markets of Rajshahi.

Senior Scientific Officer of Mango Research Centre situated at Chapainawabganj Abdul Jalil Bhuiya said that mango production began to fall from the beginning of the '80s. Before independence Bangladesh was the fourth largest mango producing country. But it had degraded to the tenth position in mideighties. The production of mango was the least last year that amounted to about 55 tons.

Almost 98 per cent of mango trees produced huge amount of buds this season and the experts hoped a bumper production. But dense fog adversely affected the buds. Hopper and gall pests attacked and destroyed about 25 per cent of buds. In addition to this long lasting hot spell adversely affected the growth of mango. However, despite all these adverseness, mango production is very satisfactory this year. This has been possible as some of the farmers adopted modern scientific technologies, said Bhuiya. In our country an average amount of 1.78.765 metric tons of

mango is produced every year in 1,20,600 acres of land, he informed. The production will rise up to 3 lakh tons this year, it is expected.

Due to hot spell and dry weather in the region mango has ripen earlier before full maturation and that is why the mango have not grown big enough and tastes a little sour this year.

Meanwhile, a new disease recently identified has made the owners of mango gardens worried. The scientists of Mango Research Centre named the disease as 'black tip' or 'Black necrosis'. The experts apprehend the loss due to this disease will amount to about Tk one crore.

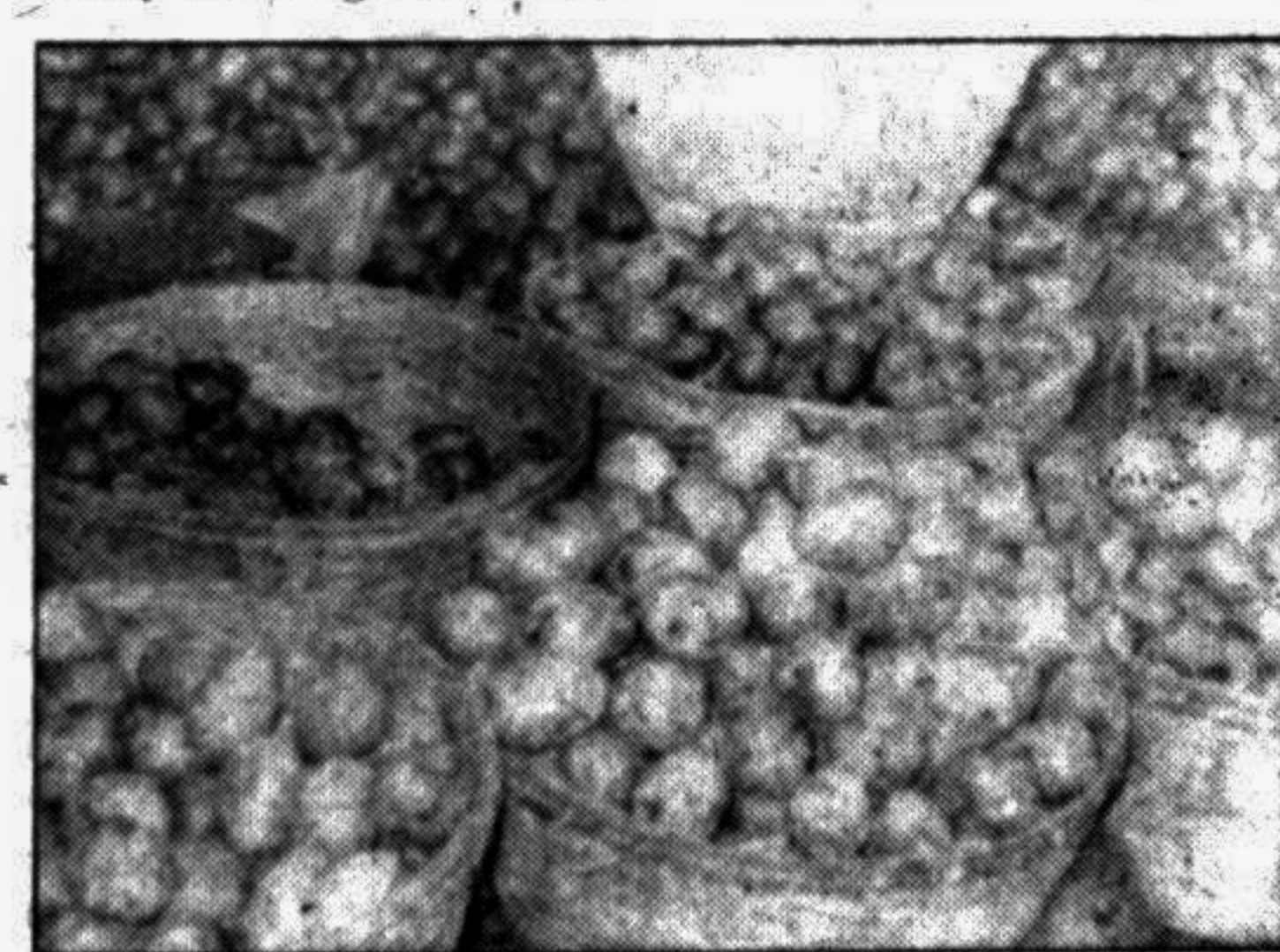
According to the sources of Mango Research Centre, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide gases of smoke evolving from brick factories are causing the disease.

These gases made black spots on the surface of mango fruits. These spots cause necrotic changes and ultimately the mango fruit is rot-

tens and detach from the stalks.

It is learnt that, being informed of the disease, four scientific officers of Mango Research Centre visited some gardens of Chowdala and Ramchandra unions on June 6 last and produced a report.

They observed that the gardens surrounding brick factories have been attacked by black tip. After laboratory examinations, they detected that carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide contents of the smoke from the brick factories were the causes of 'black tip'. It is learnt that there are more than two hundred brick factories in four main mango producing thanas of Chapainawabganj, namely Shibganj, Gomastapur, Bhulaha and the Sadar. In these thanas the mango gardens extends miles after miles and the brick fields have set up in between these mango gardens. About 60 per cent of mango gardens have been affected by 'black tips', it was informed.



RAJSHAHI: The markets of Rajshahi are flooded with varieties of mango. The photo shows a mango shop at Shaheb Bazar area of the city. — Star photo