

### 2 killed, 10 hurt in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Mar 5: Two persons were killed and 10 others injured in a clash between two groups of people at village Bhabanpur in Bhairab thana on Feb 23.

The dead were identified as Zaher Mia 25 of village Rasulpur and Rais Mia 55 of village Bhabanpur.  
Deceased Zaher Mia belonged to one group while Rais Mia belonged to the rival group and both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

### BKB gives Tk 40cr loan in Feni, Noakhali

FENI, 5: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Agrani Bank and Sonali Bank have disbursed Tk 40.23 crore as loan in various sectors in Noakhali and Feni districts in 1995, reports UNB.  
The loans were distributed for crop production, fisheries, poultry and dairy farming, oil, rice and re-rolling mills, cold storage, engineering workshop and expansion of jute mills.  
The three banks distributed the loans from their 49 branches in eight thanas of the two districts. These are - Parashuram, Chhagalnaiya, Sonagazi, Daganbhuiyan and sadar thanas of Feni district, and Senbag, Companiganj and sadar thanas of Noakhali district.

Of the total, Agrani Bank disbursed Tk 27 crore from its 16 branches, Sonali Bank distributed Tk 7.13 crore from its 18 branches and BKB Tk 6.10 crore from its 15 branches.

### Two rice traders convicted for misappropriating rice bags

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Mar 5: Md Shabbidullah, Additional Sessions and Special Tribunal Judge, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered recently convicted two rice traders of Pakundia Bazar and sentenced them to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three years and to pay a fine of Taka 1000 each or in default to suffer RI for another three months on charge of selling rice meant for Open Market Sale (OMS) into blackmarket.  
According to the prosecution, on March 8, 1995, a police team of Pakundia thana raided the shops of Paritosh Bhoumik and Milon of Pakundia Bazar. Police recovered 50 kg from the shop of Paritosh Bhoumik and 10 kg from the shop of Milon while the rice was being sold into blackmarket. The rice was earlier allotted for sale under OMS programme through the dealers.

### Posts of field level agriculture dept officers lying vacant

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Mar 5: Official and field level works are being hampered badly as a good number of posts have been lying vacant in Agriculture Department in Kishoreganj district for long.  
The post of Thana Agriculture Officer has long been lying vacant in Mitamoin thana of the district. The posts of Subject Matter Officer (SMO) in Itua, Mitamoin and Nikli and the posts of junior Agriculture Extension Officer in Tarail, Hossainpur, Pakundia and Itua thanas have also been lying vacant. Nikli thana agriculture office is running without upper division assistant cum cashier.

### LGED implemented 460 projects in last 5 yrs in Feni

FENI, Mar 5: Local Government Engineering Directorate, during the last five fiscal years, successfully implemented a total 460 schemes in the district at a cost Tk 33.38 crore, reports UNB.  
The schemes included carpeting of 94 kilometre road of different areas, brick pavement of 159 kilometre road, construction of 689 metre bridges and culverts, repair of 78 kilometre road and 77 bridges and culverts, construction of one regulator, development of two hats, reconstruction of two cyclone shelters and construction of two Bailey bridges.  
With the completion of these schemes, the communication system between rural, thana and district level was improved to a great extent.

## Famous date cake of Jessore faces extinction

From Atiur Rahman

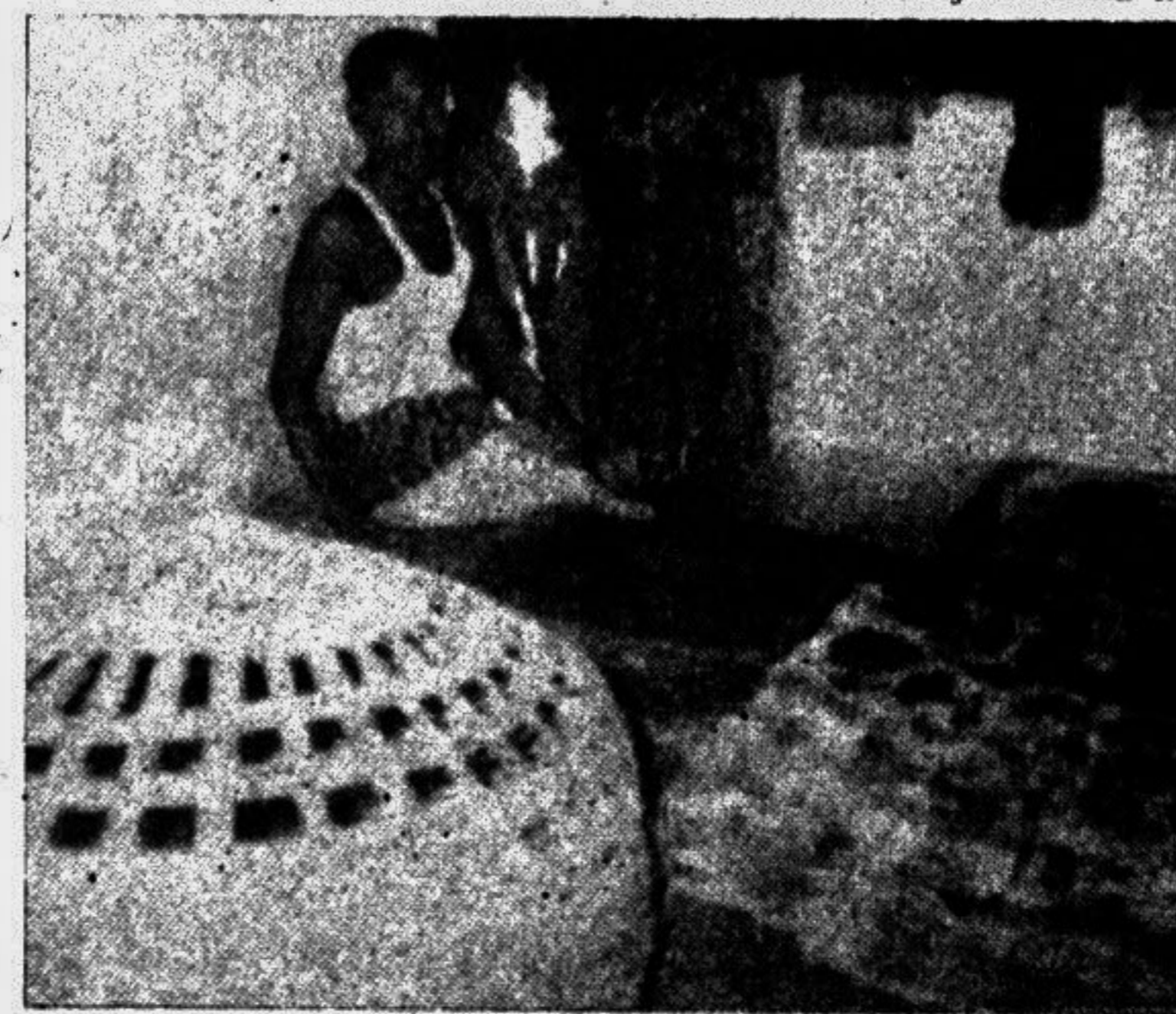
was available in certain selected grocers shop. It continued to be produced by some local men for use as medicine in stomach trouble.  
These days, it is fully out of market as the demand has been lost with loss of confidence of users in its utility.



Women removing a gur tray from an oven. — Star photo

According to another source, before partition of Bengal in 1947, several markets including Chaitantala, Khalshi Khalishpur and Kaliganj were famous for gur-market in the country. During gur seasons, hundreds of wholesalers from Calcutta used to crowd these markets and purchased gur in massive quantity without any checking and market verification from local retailers who acted as their agents.  
Retailers purchased it direct from producers against cash, advanced to them by wholesalers to act on their behalf on percentage basis. Normally rate of market used to be determined by local retailers who played two fold games: To earn money from producers by paying less than actual price and by keeping wide margin in selling rate to

wholesalers.  
There are still some families well known for gur trade in the area. Mridha family in Chowgacha in the district deserves to be mentioned in this respect.  
It is legendary that Chinu Mridha of the family monopoly



A man processing gur. — Star photo

that lastly made the gur-supplier to stop the business. Gachi community has vanished, who lost in competition with the group of modern producers in quality, taste and colour.  
Bittika comprising Tejob, Kudalia near Khajura bazar in Jessore sadar, is presently admired for production of best date-cake gur in the district.  
There is no area in the district to challenge Bittika-production, nor to be compared at all.  
Mohiuddin Hashka, 75, of Tejob is regarded as expert in date-cake. His production sells at highest rate and is very limited in supply. It is not openly available.  
During recent visit to Bittika, the best considered date-cakemaker, Mahiuddin Lashkar was interviewed by this correspondent.  
When asked what were the reasons behind his success in the date-cake making job, he said that his production is different from any of his contemporaries in all respect.  
Describing his speciality in preparation of date-cake, he said that both sides of the cake

### Gas found while sinking tubewell pipe

KISHOREGANJ, 5: Gas was reportedly found coming out from a villager's courtyard at Kalkibari village near district town while sinking a tubewell on Tuesday, reports UNB.  
According to the Deputy Commissioner, the gas started coming out with mud while installing a tubewell at the courtyard of Moulaya Ahmad Ali.  
The gas started emitting after the sinking of a pipe about 70 feet deep. DC Mohammad Fazul Haq told the news agency that they communicated with the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry to take necessary initiative to examine the nature of gas.  
Witnesses said gas is coming out from five feet width hole created by the pressure of the same.

### 2 housewives commit suicide

From Our Correspondent  
KISHOREGANJ, Mar 5: Two housewives and a young girl committed suicide in three separate incidents in Rajshahi thana recently.  
One Rumana Khatun, 35, wife of Abdul Baten of village Betal committed suicide by setting on fire herself after pouring kerosene on her body on Feb 19. The cause behind the suicide could not be ascertained.  
In another incident, Halima Khatun, 23, mother of a child, hanged herself in her father's house at Charai Baghata village on Feb 22. Her husband married second times a few days ago, it is learnt.  
A 16-year old girl, named Asia Khatun, daughter of Mofizuddin of village Ramdi, swallowed poison for unknown reason. All the members of the deceased's family went into hide following the incident.  
Three separate cases were registered with Katiadi police station in this connection.

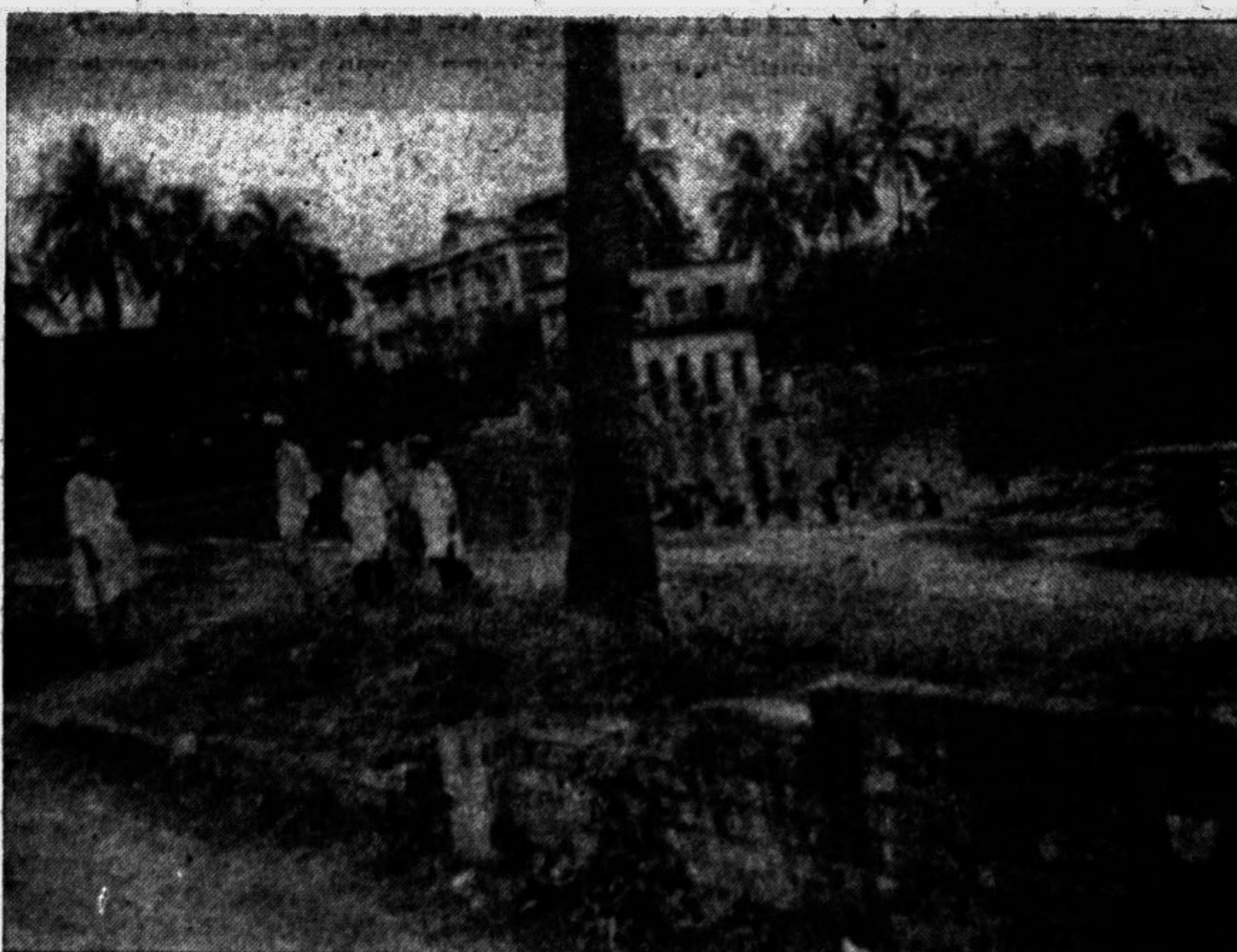
## Century-old park wears an ugly look

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Mar 5: The only park within Pabna town, popularly known as Jubilee Tank, covering a vast area in the heart of this tiny but one of the oldest pourashavas of the country, has ceased to be a park. Unfortunately the park turned into a grazing and bathing place for the cattle and a safe place for the miscreants and drug-addicts.

The Jubilee Tank, having a vast area with a pond in the middle, has in the meantime, lost all its charm, beauty and glory.  
Men, women and children, along with cattle, are seen bathing, washing cloth and other utensils without resistance from the pourashava authorities.  
The water of this tank, having enough depth, has been getting polluted everyday due to utter negligence and for want of care taken by the pourashava authorities.  
Unfortunately, it is observed that the brick-made surrounding walls of Jubilee Tank have been damaged and the barbed-wire fencing that was erected after damage done to the brick-walls, were also similarly damaged and there-after no surrounding wall has been built. Thus, cattle are found grazing around the Jubilee Tank and during the night, the place is virtually captured by the miscreants making it quite impossible for the town inhabitants to have fresh air for which the place was meant for over a century ago.

There were 12 cemented benches on all the four sides of the tank where elderly people used to come both in the morning and in the evening and after having necessary walk, would sit on those benches and had gossips. Not only the elderly people but also the girls including the housewives would use those benches for the same purpose. But now-a-days, it has become quite impossible for such men and women to sit and take rest or gossip over the benches due to the miscreants and also because most of these benches have been destroyed and were lying unrepared and thoroughly uncared.  
On the north-west corner of the tank, there was a tomb-



People bathing in the forbidden Jubilee Tank while the collapsed boundary wall of the park remains unrepared. — Star photo

like small building (round-shaped) with benches built with cement for enabling people to sit there for avoiding scorching sun-rays or rainfalls.

would sit, take rest, gossip after having walk around and on the first-floor of the pourashava kept a big size radio from which people in earlier days listened national and international news, enjoy songs, music and other interesting programmes aired by the radio. No such radio-set is there and the room is now a broken and damaged one lying uncared for years together.

In fact, the famous Jubilee Tank of Pabna was not a tank or pond in the ordinary or commonly used sense of the term. Jubilee Tank was a beautiful park and the only park of the town where hundreds of people — mostly from the literate sections came everyday, remained there for hours and a highly cultured atmosphere prevailed there. College teachers, school teachers, boys and

girls having a cultural outlook besides diabetic and other patients (who needed walking and taking fresh air) used the park and enjoyed the place for physical and mental rejuvenation.  
None in those days used the water of this sufficiently deep tank which never dries up and sufficient water is found always stored therein.  
Not only this, on all sides of Jubilee Tank, many plants flower were found planted and proper care was taken for enabling people to enjoy the fragrance from blooming flowers. In fact, a heavenly atmosphere prevailed there and it was enjoyable.

Jubilee Tank is also known as 'Luxmisagar' and from the ancient time it is found that Abhoy Gobinda Choudhury, Zamindar of Tantiabanda under Sujannagar thana of Pabna district donated land for the construction of an ideal tank to commemorate the silver jubilee of Queen Victoria and hence it was named as Jubilee Tank. Another Zamindar of Pabna Luxminath Pramanik donated necessary fund for its construction and hence, in Bengali, it is also named as 'Luxmisagar'. Jubilee Tank was constructed in 1887.  
Later, Pabna pourashabha took over both the ownership and management of this beautiful park and brought it under its presentation laws.  
Now all the glory is although lost, the people of all shades of opinion hope that Jubilee Tank would be properly maintained and necessary reconstruction and repair work would also be undertaken on a priority basis as there is no other park in this old municipal town and its necessity is simply growing with passage of time.

## Bee farming becoming a hobby now

From Ashit Chowdhury

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 5: Bee farming has turned to a profitable profession in Sirajganj district. The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has been extending training facilities to the interested persons.  
It is learnt that bee farming is gaining popularity among the villagers. During mustard and mango seasons, bee farming gets momentum. The bees collect honey from mustard and mango blossoms. Best quality of refined honey is sold at Tk 100 per kilogram in the village markets.  
The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation has been extending training

taken up in Sirajganj sadar, Raiganj, Ullapara and Kamarkhanda thanas areas.  
So far 37 persons in sadar, 73 in Raiganj, 30 in Ullapara and 36 in Kamarkhanda thanas have been trained. During two months' training course, the BSCIC pays Tk 200 per month to every trainee as stipend. Honey collected from the boxes may be sold by the farmers or through BSCIC. When contacted the Assistant General Manager of Sirajganj BSCIC told The Daily Star that training courses in other thanas areas will also be extended.  
It was observed while visiting few farms in Sirajganj town that the farmers are mostly



Interested persons displaying bees raised in their farms in Sirajganj town. — Star photo  
facilities to the interested honey collectors as well.  
The district office sources of BSCIC told that primarily training schemes have been

## Project taken up in 1965 Proposed construction of highway awaits implementation

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, Mar 5: About 40 lakh people of Habiganj and Sunamganj districts have been suffering badly due to the poor communication system for decades. Besides, an ambitious project styled as Sunamganj-Dhaka Highway via Habiganj has been lying pending for the last 30 years due to red-tapism in the department concerned. None of the authorities took any initiative to implement the project taken up in 1965. Though after liberation, a number of leaders committed for implementation of the same, but no effective step has yet been taken.  
Implementation of the project, the proposed road would reduce the distance of Sunamganj district with the capital by 80 kilometres. Travelers have to travel about 180 kilometres through Shaistaganj (Habiganj) for communicating

with Dhaka from Sunamganj. The road when completed, will be only 102 kilometres, an official source said. It would facilitate the transportation of different commodities.  
It may be stated here that, major part of these districts are low-lying and lack minimum road communication. It hinders the development activities and others in the region. The people have to depend on either foot or on boat during the monsoon, as means of communication. The hilly thanas in these two districts which are considered as the backward areas would be benefited, if the proposed road is constructed. Besides, the Sylhet region which faces frequent natural calamities like floods and storms almost every year will also be able to use the highway as a substitute road during the disaster period.



The centuries-old rest room or the shed inside the park left uncared. — Star photo