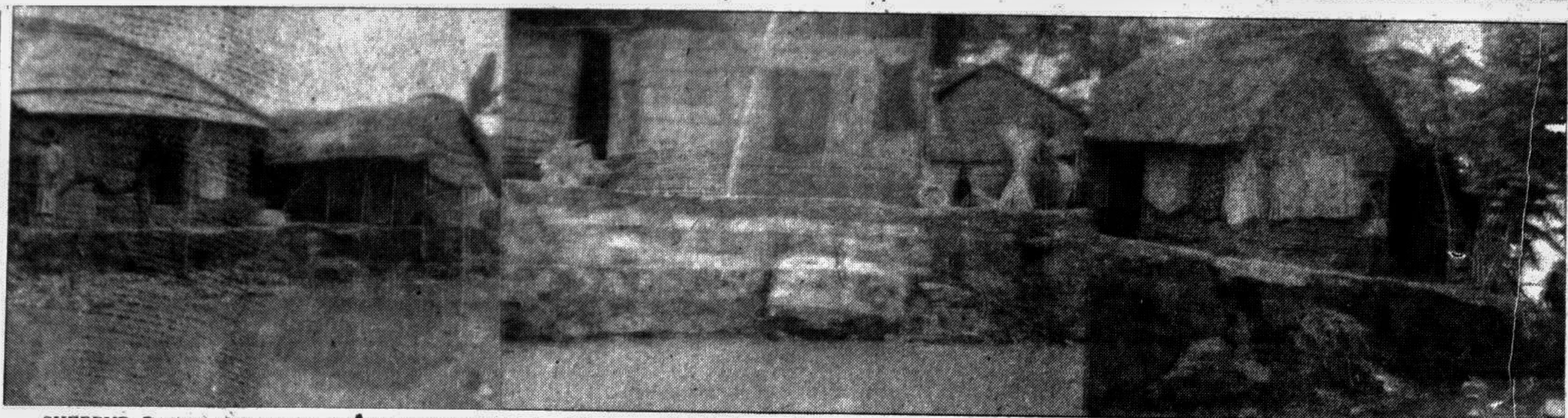


Two sentenced to life for raping

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, July 21: Two persons were found guilty and awarded life term imprisonment in the district recently. Masukul Hasan alias Ripon and Shahidullah were sentenced them to suffer life term imprisonment on charge of raping a minor girl.

The prosecution case in brief is that, at about 1 p.m on October 3, 1995, Jotshna Khatun, 8, daughter of Yousof Ali of Nagua in Kishoreganj town went to the local bus stand for selling betel-nut from where the accused persons took her into a nearby house saying false words. She was raped there. Later Jotshna was recovered in an unconscious state.

A case was registered with Kishoreganj police and after investigation chargesheet was submitted against two persons.



SHERPUR: Dasrani river erosion doing havoc to inhabitants of Goalpara, Paistir char and char no 6 villages under Kamarer char union of sadar thana. Thousands of villagers moved to safer place while others wait praying for an end to the river erosion. According to official sources more than 200 hectares of crop land were engulfed by river. The erosion victims were not given any relief so far. The photos were taken Saturday.

Tk 8 crore spent in 8 yrs

No headway in starting Habiganj BSCIC estate

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 21: The Industrial Estate setup by the BSCIC at the district headquarters of Habiganj is yet to get any shape due to the administrative bottleneck, apathy on the part of investors and interested industrialists, though the government had already spent about taka one crore during the last eight years for the purpose. Unnecessary delay in observing the formalities for preparing the projects and loan sanction by the commercial banks as well as negligence on the part of the BSCIC officials has worsened the situation, it is alleged.

The authorities were able to sanction industrial plots to only three persons. The government had earlier acquired 15 acres of land at Dhulakhil for establishing the industrial estate of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in 1987. An amount of Tk 21 lakh 95 thousand and 500 were spent for the purpose. Later earth works on the project area was done with an expenditure of Taka 40 lakh, in phases. The BSCIC authori-

ties later built an office building with Taka 11 lakh 32 thousand, an overhead tank of 25,000 gallon capacity spending an amount of Taka 8 lakh 12 thousand, sank a deep tubewell at a cost of Taka 8 lakh 25,000 and installed electricity line at a cost of Taka 6 lakh 44,000 within the estate area during the last few years.

Official sources informed that, there are as many as 66 plots of 4 grades in the proposed industrial estate. It includes, eighteen 'A' grade category plots of 9000 square feet area each costing Taka 186,750 and sixteen 'B' grade plots of 6000 square feet area each at the cost of Taka one lakh 14,500 while ten 'C' grade plots of 4500 square feet area each at the cost of Taka 93,500 each. As many as 22 special grade plots have also been kept ready in the estate. The rate or area of these plots are yet to be finalised by the authorities, the sources informed.

A good number of businessmen have shown their keen interest in setting up small and cottage industries. But, due to the complex system of plot and loan sanction and other administrative bottleneck, they get disappointed, it is alleged.

Authorities should take effective measure to start the estate by sanctioning plots and loans to the genuine and interested investors, it is widely felt.

Admission test of 32 examinees at RU cancelled

From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 21: The admission conducting committee of Arts Faculty of Rajshahi University has cancelled the first year admission test (session 95-96) of 32 examinees for alleged forgery in the test and withheld the results of another two examinees with a view to investigate into the matters.

The nature of forgery is that the authority in viva-voce test found that the hand writing of examinee in written examination was found to be not similar with the hand writing of examinee at the viva-voce board. Later on most of the accused examinees acknowledged their sin and confessed that a few others had participated in the written examination impersonating them.

Earlier, during the examination four fake examinees of arts faculty were held and one managed to escape.

Most of forgery cases were discovered that the alternative examinees help examinees in writing English and Arabic subject.

Prof. Md. Abdul Khaleque, Dean of Arts Faculty talking to The Daily Star said that an organised group are threatening him at his office for cancellation of order of accused examinees. Some 8,184 examinees took part in the admission test held in May last under Arts Faculty against 845 seats in 6 subjects.



RAJSHAHI: Shah Mokhdum thana police recently discovered an illegal aluminium factory in the city and recovered materials including stolen aluminium wire used by the Palli Bidyut Samities worth about Tk 5 lakh. Police also arrested three persons in this connection. — Star photo

One commits suicide in Bandarban

From CHT Correspondent LAMA (Bandarban), July 21: To get rid of the harassment, an accused of a case has here ended his life by drinking poison at Dardaripara village in Lama thana of the district Friday night, police quoted the neighbours as saying.

Lai Miah, 42, of village Dardaripara under Rupashipara union parishad in Lama thana of the district allegedly killed himself by taking poison when his rival Shahid of the same village lodged a case with the Lama thana police for his failure in employing his bullock reportedly breaching the previous commitment.

Lai Miah was in a gentleman contract with Shahid to employ a pair of bullock from the later on rental basis to plough his land at a rate of ten maunds of rice to be given to the later as hire charge of the bullock. As Lai was failed to comply, Shahid had lodged a case with the Lama thana police after village arbitration, police sources said.

Lama thana police recovering the body of Lai has sent to Bandarban sadar hospital for autopsy this noon.

Lama thana police registered a case of unnatural death.

One killed in snake bite

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, July 21: Noorjahan, 35, a housewife of village Hatbaku in sadar thana died of snake bite on July 14 last, according to witnesses.

According to local people, Noorjahan was sleeping in her house when a poisonous cobra bite her. She was rushed to Jhenidah sadar hospital and succumbed to her injuries there.

Valuable worth Tk 32,000 looted in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, July 21: Two dacoities and one robbery were committed in Kishoreganj district last week.

A gang of dacoits entered into a medicine shop owned by Sunil Chandra Saha at Station Road in Kishoreganj town by cutting the roof and tied up the two employees of the shop on the night of July 17. They looted Taka 12,700 in cash from the shop.

In another incident, dacoits raided the house of Rubul Amin Master of village Kumarpur in Pakundia thana on July 11. They first tied up all the male inmates of the house and decamped with cash, money, TV and other articles worth about Taka 20,000. Police so far took one Mamta into custody for his alleged involvement in the dacoity.

Besides, Bilkis Ara, an employee of Kishoreganj Palli Bidyut Samity came under the attack by a group of muggers while she was returning home from the office at Gaital in Kishoreganj town in the evening of July 17. The miscreants waylaid the rickshaw of Bilkis Ara in which she was travelling and snatched her necklace.

Three separate cases were registered with the respective police stations in this connection.

It may be mentioned here that theft, robbery and dacoity have increased alarmingly in Kishoreganj district for the last few days.

Insurgents release kidnapped Biro

From CHT Correspondent BORKAL (Rangamat), July 21: After a month long captivity, Biro Kumar Chakma, Chairman of Shuvalong union parishad in Borkal thana of the district was released early this week by the tribal insurgents reportedly on payment of Taka fifty thousand as hall of the ransom, police sources said.

Biro was abducted by the tribal insurgents from his house at Hazachhora in Borkal thana of the district in the dead of night on June 16 last, police quoted the family members of the victim as saying.

Biro and his family members were directed to pay the rest of the ransom Taka fifty thousand within fifteen days of his release as his ransom was fixed at Taka one lakh by the abductors tribal insurgents, sources said.

The abduct was escorted to his house by the tribal abductors immediately after making payment of the first instalment of ransom, sources added.

Biro Kumar Chakma was confined at Bhalukyachhora in Indian territory till finalisation of the condition of the release by the tribal insurgents, police quoted Biro as saying.

Child dies from snake bite

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, July 21: One child died of snake bite on Monday.

It is reported that Fatema Khatun, 5, of village Gobordari under sadar thana while sleeping with her mother in her bed room at dead of night a snake bite her.

Fresh areas submerged in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, July 21: With further deterioration of flood situation in the district more areas of Gobindaganj, Palashbari and Sadullapur thanas went under water Thursday. Total 59 unions under seven thanas including Gaibandha pourashava is now under the grip of flood water.

Road link of four thanas namely Fulchhari Shaghata, Sunderganj and Gaibandha sadar with district headquarters remain snapped.

Railway personnel are working round the clock at Teestamukh ghat for the replacing railway track which is being seriously hit by erosion.

3 yr old girl brutally killed

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, July 21: A 3-year old girl was brutally killed at village Panchhat in Ina thana on July 16.

Police sources said, Zamena Begum, daughter of Nabi Hossain was sleeping with her mother in the evening while her father was out of the house. At about 11 p.m Nabi Hossain returned home and found his daughter missing. Zamena was later found dead besides the house of a neighbour. Marks of injuries were found around her neck, police said.

A case has been started with Ina police station accusing three persons in this connection. None has so far been arrested.

PBS undertakes plan to supply power to all villages in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent CHUADANGA, July 21: The Chuadanga Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) (under Meherpur Palli Bidyut Samity) has taken up a programme to supply electricity in all the 447 villages of 31 unions of four thanas of Chuadanga district, according to official sources.

In the meantime, a total of 183 villages of four thanas of the district have been given electricity supply for which 800 kilometres of electricity supply lines have been affected.

According to local Palli Bidyut Samity sources the samity has taken up a programme to construct 500 kilometres of new electricity supply lines in all the four thanas of the district at a cost of Taka 75 crore. At present 150 kilometres electricity supply lines are under construction in Chuadanga sadar thana, 50 kilometres in Alamdanga thana, 150 kilometres in Damurhuda thana and 150 kilometres in Jibannagar thana.

So far 15,590 electric connections have been provided in the district by the Chuadanga Palli Bidyut Samity of which 15,345 connections have been provided to residences, 75 connections to irrigation schemes and 170 connections of small industries.

The Palli Bidyut Samity has been working for implementing a programme to bring all the rural areas of Chuadanga district under electrification programme by the year 2000. At present PBS has been supplying throughout Chuadanga district through two sub-stations, Alamdanga and Uthali under Jibannagar thana.

Annual Planning confce held at BARD

COMILLA, July 21: Annual Planning Conference of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) was held at Comilla (13-14 July 1996) recently. A two-day long planning Conference was inaugurated by M Dr Shah Muhammad and Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Member, Bangladesh Planning Commission, Government of the Peoples, Republic of Bangladesh as Chief Guest and Mr Azizul Huq Bhuiyan, Joint Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, was present as special guest. Mr Md Abdul Quddus, Director General, BARD presided over the session. Mr M Khairul Kabir, Director (Training), BARD also spoke in the occasion, a press release said.

The conference was attended by high level officials from different Ministries, Planning Commission, Government, Non-government Organizations and International Agencies involved in rural development activities in Bangladesh.

The objectives of the conference was to review the training research and action-research activities of BARD during 1995-96 and to formulate plan for 1996-97.

A plan for 1996-97 has been formulated with the expectations to further argue-menting the training, research and action-research activities of BARD. The Conferences was conducted by Mr Habibullah, Director (Research) and Mr Mizanur Rahman, Deputy Director, BARD.

Four held with stolen fans in Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, July 21: Brahmanbaria thana police recovered 35 fans from the house of Dipok Bonik of Brahmanbaria pourashava and arrested four thieves in this connection on July 5.

According to police sources, acting on a secret information, Md Rohul Amin Siddiki, OC of Brahmanbaria sadar thana along with his force raided the house of Dipok Bonik at Banikpara under Brahmanbaria pourashava at dead of night last week and recovered 35 stolen fans from his possession.

Police also arrested four alleged thieves — Dipok Bonik (32), Dewan Ali, 28, Kalon, 27, and Ilias, 26.

Five commit suicide in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, July 21: Five persons including four housewives committed suicide by taking pesticide in different villages under Tala and Kalaroa thanas during the period of last one week.

According to police sources, one Sufia Khatun, 19, daughter of Ayenuddin Gazi of village Agaljhara and Alta Rani, 30, wife of Harish Chandra of village Kalagachhia both under Tala thana and Khairunnesa, 46, wife of Badaruddin of village Rambhadrapur under Kalaroa thana committed suicide by taking liquid pesticides on July 14. In the other incident one housewife, China Khatun, 14, of village Elishpur and Firoza Khatun, 14, daughter of Elahi Baksa Gazi from village Bikhali both under Kalaroa thana committed suicide by taking liquid pesticides on July 15 last.

Family troubles were the causes of their suicide, police sources said. Five separate UD cases were lodged with Tala and Kalaroa police stations.

Acid throwing incident: Culprits yet to be arrested

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, July 21: Police could not yet arrest the culprits involved in acid throwing incident on two sisters at village Kajla-Bagarbaid in Tarail thana.

On the night of April 27 last, Ayesha Akhter Kachi, 18, and Farzana Haque Ruma, 15, daughters of Rajab Ali were sleeping while three miscreants threw acid on them through the window. Both the sisters with serious burn injuries were immediately admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital of whom Ruma is still undergoing treatment there.

A case was registered with Tarail police station accusing Rafiq, Mizan and Alal in this connection. All the accused are still at large. When contacted over telephone, the Officer-in-Charge of Tarail thana told this correspondent that efforts are in progress to nab the culprits.



PABNA: Nagarbari ferry ghat literally experienced inundation by the river Jamuna causing docking problems. — Star photo

Agri-training course for thana, dist level officials

FENI, July 21: A three-day training course for thana and district level agricultural officials at group approach concluded at Agriculture Extension Department (AED) Saturday, reports UNB.

A total of 20 officials of district and thana level took part in the course, organised by AED.

The objective of the course was to increase the ability of the officials to work with small, medium and marginal farmers for boosting the agricultural production.

Additional Director of Chittagong division of AED MN Das inaugurated the course of Thursday.

Another report says: A two-day training course for thana level health officials and nurses concluded on Friday at the auditorium of Civil Surgeon's office.

The theme of the course was diarrhoea treatment, service and management.

Some 31 officials and senior staff nurses took part in the training course.

Minister visits flood affected areas in Jamalpur

SARISHABARI, Jamalpur, July 21: The State Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Nurul Islam visited different flood affected areas in all unions of the thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The State Minister also enquired the conditions of affected people of the thana and Tarakandi areas, said an official handout.

Nurul Islam also addressed several public meetings during the visit and said the present government is the people's government and it is their duty to provide all possible assistance to them.

He said, inspite of limited resources, government will try to solve the problem of the affected people and all necessary measures will be taken for their rehabilitation.

The minister also instructed the officials of union and thana levels to stand beside the people to redress their sufferings.

He also urged the Awami League backed Jubo League and Chhatra League activists to provide assistance to the distressed people.

Health care for underserved people underscored

RAJSHAHI, July 21: Speakers at a workshop here yesterday underscored the need for providing health care to the underserved and underserved population of the country through coordinated efforts and motivational works with the objective to achieve the national primary healthcare programme a total success by the year 2000, reports BSS.

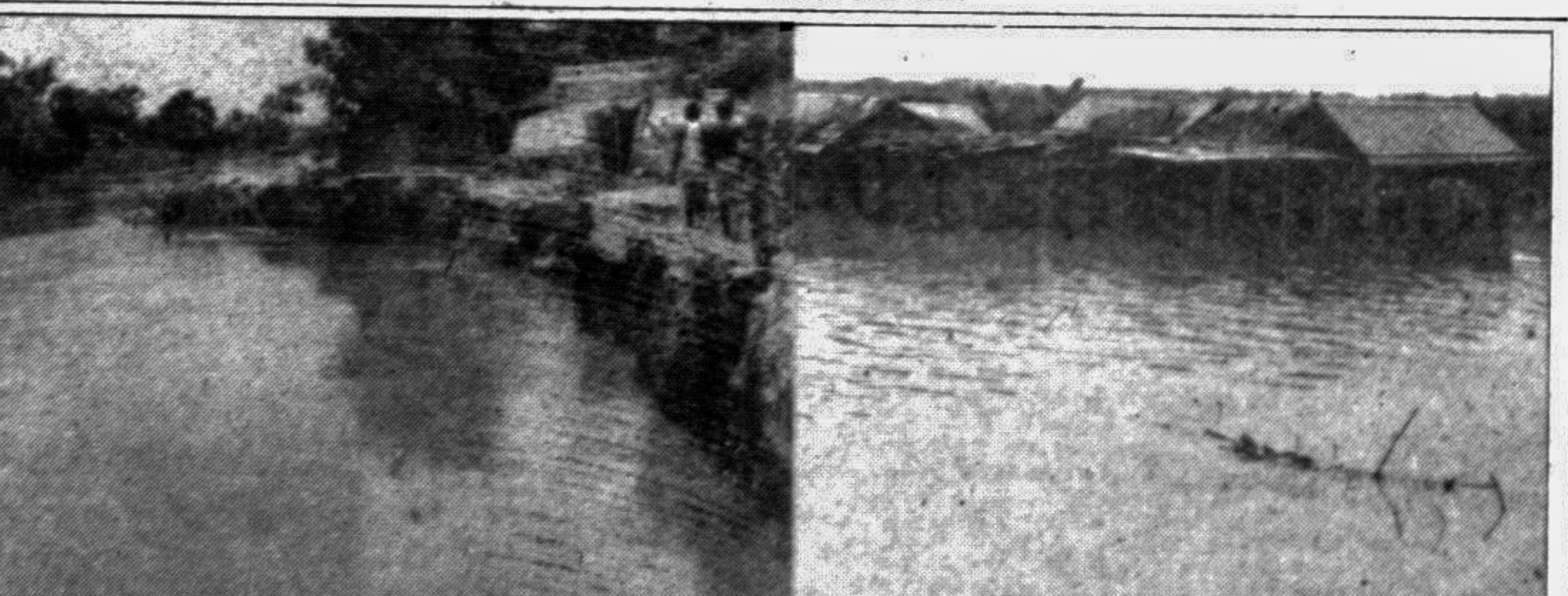
The two-day workshop on district level inter-sectoral intensification of primary healthcare was formally opened here by AFM Yahya Chowdhury, the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi.

The workshop jointly organised by Bangladesh Health Directorate and World Health Organisation was participated by concerned officials of the district.

The main objective of the workshop was to awaken the people about primary healthcare through motivational works by the concerned officials and employees engaged in healthcare at grass root level for improving the quality of life of the people in population.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Adhunik, an anti-smoking organisation brought out a procession in the campus promoting alertness against tobacco and drugs recently. — Star photo



TANGAIL: Erosion in Kakua village (L) engulfed several unions early this month. In the same village this week flood inundated vast areas. — Star photo