

# Power supply inadequate in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 4: Inadequate supply of electricity throughout the Pabna district posed a severe threat to normal life. Domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors are severely affected. The situation has been worsening everyday.

The situation in Pabna town is particularly distressing since at least 50 per cent of the total electricity allotted to this district by the Power Development Board (PDB) is consumed in this town.

The worst trouble that the consumers face, is found to arise between 10 am in the morning and 10 pm in the night. During these 12 hours of extreme importance to the public life, supply of electricity is found to be disrupted at least ten to twelve times and due to such disruptions at least three to five hours time power supply is not available.

In the domestic life, people experience a horrible picture when they find their fans not moving for hours, rooms remain dark causing untold sufferings to the students, the lawyers working in their respective chambers, the traders in the shops, the judges in the courts along with their employees, officials and employees in different offices, doctors, patients and nurses in different hospitals and clinics, owners,

employees and workers in different mills and factories, traders and their employees in the markets, officers and employees in different banks, students in their hostels and messes — have all been put to worst type of sufferings.

The PDB officials do not feel any necessity to give any prior notice either through use of microphone publicity or through the local press with regard to the date and hour of load-shedding or stoppage of power-supply, many consumers allege.

The problem is particularly acute in the industrial and commercial sectors as well as to the students and specially the examinees who suffer most with a severe type of helplessness.

A house-wife, while narrating her sorrow plight due to frequent disruption of electricity told that babies sleeping suddenly wake up due to stoppage of fan and create troubles in her kitchen work. It's very difficult, specially during the hot summer days and nights that one can work, read or sleep without the help of fans, she said. She also said that her children engaged in reading also come out of their reading rooms as soon as power supply is stopped and hence their education — specially preparation

for their examinations suffer most.

The same opinion was given by at least three superintendents of hostels of Government Edward College, Government Mohila College and Government Shaheed Bulbul College.

Production costs could have gone down by at least 10 per cent had there been no such vexatious problem as is being posed by the extremely irregular and inadequate supply of electricity. Thus, the prices of the products could also have reduced to some extent.

The president of the Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industries while talking to this correspondent over telephone said that the business community of Pabna became fed up with the attitude of PDB authorities as their only grievance for supplying electricity without any hindrance all the time — specially upto 11 in the night is not being met.

The businessmen, under such circumstances, feel very insecure due to the terrorists, mastaans and extortionists who become active taking advantage of the absence of electric lights.

There was no sense of security of life, of money and also of their merchandise in the night when power supply remain off.

The businessmen of Pabna were incurring losses to the tune of lakhs of Taka every month due to the above situation.

A lawyer told this correspondent that while on way to his chamber in the evening, his client was robbed as there was neither street light nor any light in the shops around the streets.

Robbery and extortion become rampant during the evenings due to the same in all localities, complained a commissioner of Pabna Pourashabha.

## Training course for physicians inaugurated

From CHT Correspondent  
MAINIMUKH (Rangamat), Sept 4: A six-month long course for Palli Chikitshak (rural physician) was inaugurated recently at Rabeta Al-Alam Al-Islam Hospital at Mainimukh in Langadu thana of the district participated by 30 educated unemployed youths of the region.

While inaugurating the course on August 29, the Senior Medical Officer of the hospital, Dr AKM Abdul Hamid said that this institution dedicated to serve the suffering humanity of this inaccessible area has undertaken the programme to reach the medicare services to the hapless people and the effort will continue.

Rabeta Al-Alam Al-Islam Hospital established in Mainimukh of Langadu thana in the district a decade ago has been rendering medicare services to nearly one lakh have-nots living in the inaccessible thana of Langadu and Baghalchhari of the district.

## One beaten to death

From Our Correspondent  
KUSHTIA, Sept 4: One person was beaten to death at Kumarkhal thana on August 20 last. The victim was identified as Babul Hossain, 18, son of Shah Ali of Durgapur village.

The victim worked as cattle rearer at the house of one Intaz Ali Master and on August 20 a watch was found missing from the house and Babul was blamed to have taken the watch but Babul denied.

Afterwards Babul was beaten to death it is alleged. When he did not return home his father and other relations tried to find him out or his whereabouts and ultimately they found him hanging at the office room of Intaz Master.

On getting information police rushed and recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for postmortem. A case has been registered with Kumarkhal police station in this connection. No body has yet been arrested.

## Flood damage property worth Tk 21 crore

JAMALPUR, Sept 4: The recent flood in the district caused extensive damage to property worth about Tk 21 crore, said an official estimation, reports UNB.

About three-and-a-half lakh people comprising 70,000 families were affected by the flood, second time, this year. Some 1,186 houses were damaged totally while 6,579 partially. According to district Agriculture Extension Department, Aus paddy on some 2,503 hectares of land, broadcast Aman on 190 hectares, transplanted Aman on 32 hectares, seeds-beds on 938 hectares and vegetables on 382 hectares were washed away in the flood water.

Some 70 culverts, 347 km of kutcha roads, 66 km embankments and 90 educational institutions were partially or totally damaged.

## Gas cylinder crisis

From Our Correspondent  
KUSHTIA, Sept 4: Acute scarcity of LP gas has been prevailing in Kushtia again causing untold sufferings to the consumers of LP gas. Taking the opportunity dealers are selling each cylinder at Taka 300 in place of taka 210.

A few days back when it was not at all available the price rose to Taka 500.

It may be mentioned that only four dealers are distributing LP gas. In view of the scarcity of fuel wood and its high price most of the middle class people have purchased gas cylinder which is most convenient in cooking. For want of supply in time and its high prices due to scarcity have disappointed the housewives who have been dependent on cooking by gas. The dealers said that there are demand for one hundred gas cylinder every day in Kushtia but supply is not enough with the demand and as a result scarcity prevails.

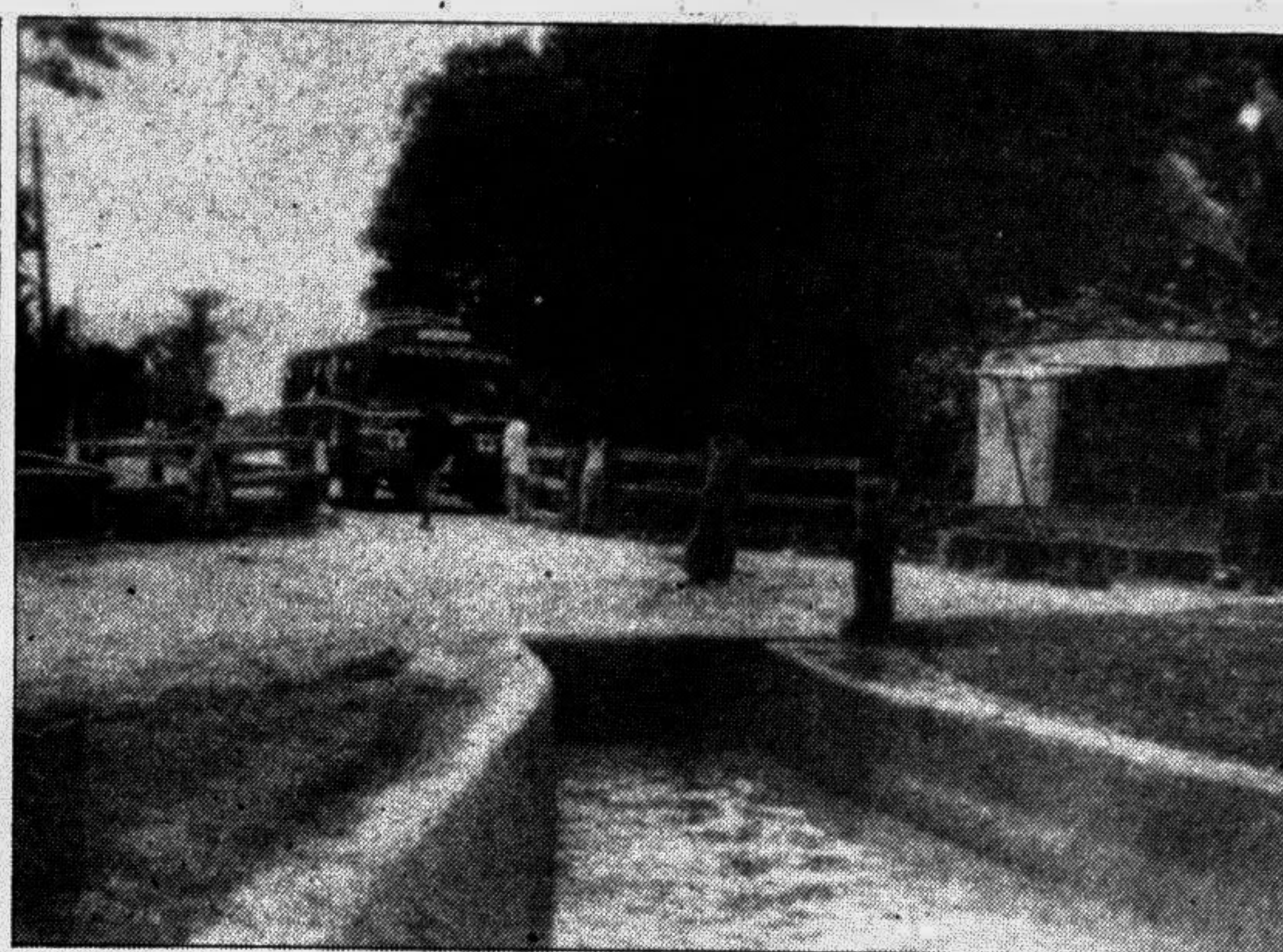
Sometimes they are to bring gas cylinder at higher prices beyond their quota in order to satisfy the selected consumers who do not hesitate to pay more. The consumers said that district administration should look after the distribution system of the gas cylinder and issue card to each genuine consumer so that they can get it by rotation regularly.

## Clash leaves 10 injured in Barisal

BARISAL, Sept 4: Ten people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a paddy field dispute at Machuakhali in Kalapara thana of Patuakhali district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Villagers said Arshad Ali Mridha along with his supporters claiming the ownership went to the field and started reaping the paddy. At this stage another group led by Abdus Sattar came to the spot and tried to resist them. Consequently, a violent clash erupted between them that left 10 people injured.

Of the injured, Abdus Sattar 65, Abdul Ali, 50, Liton, 18; Manir and Fatema Begum, 45, were admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed with the police.



MAGURA: Photo shows a bus crossing a bridge said to be in a very dilapidated condition. The bridge links Sripur and Langabandh thanas of the district. — Star photo

# Crime rate increasing in Rangamati

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Sept 4: With the continued deterioration of law and order situation in the district, a number of 211 crimes of different nature has been committed during January to June this year while 164 crimes were committed during the first half of 1995.

According to statistics available with the Rangamati Hill District police administration, the highest as well as the lowest number of crimes were committed in the district in May and June, 1996 at 49 and 28 respectively. 31, 32 and 29 crimes were committed in January, February and March respectively while 42 crimes were committed in the month of April this year. Whereas 33, 31, 23, 24, 28 and 25 crimes have taken place in January, February, March, April May and June last year, the statistics reveals.

Thirty-five thefts, 11 murders, 19 riots, eight abductions, seven cases of women and child repression, one dacoity and three robberies were reportedly committed during January to June 1996, while cases of 15 thefts, six murders, six riots, five abductions, three women and child repression, one dacoity and one robbery were reportedly to have been committed during January to June last year, police statistics says.

Forty-seven more crimes were committed during the first six months this year in comparison to those committed in

the first half of the last year, the statistics shows.

The pilferage of forest products from the government reserved forests round the clock in the district was however not recorded in the statistics available with the local police authority as these cases are dealt by the forest department, police sources said.

Many crimes committed by the tribal insurgents like abduction and extortion are also not recorded with the police as the victims, in many cases, do not dare to lodge any complaint with the law enforcers, sources added.

Expression of anxiety in the regular monthly meeting of the district law and order committee has become a regular phenomenon though nothing tangible is possible in the face of

continued deterioration of law and order situation in the district, a source of the committee said.

Meanwhile, the law and order situation in Kaptai, the only industrially important thana in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, has alarmingly deteriorated, local leaders alleged.

Theft, dacoity, robbery, abduction and other criminal activities are being committed in all the residential hotels and slums in the thana of the district, sources alleged.

Prostitution, drinking, womanising, sale of hemp and other anti-social activities are being committed unabatedly in all the residential hotels and slums in the thana of the district, sources alleged.

Crimes of all nature are being committed at the authorised and unauthorised colonies of the Karnaphuli Paper and Rayon Mills with the connivance of an identified group of terrorists sheltered both by the leaders of the Collective Bargaining Agents and the law enforcers, local social workers alleged.

Sale and export of locally made liquor and hemp as well as women's flesh trade in the numerous unauthorised slums established on both sides of Kaptai-Chittagong road are going on as legal steps to contain these are apparently absent, the sources further alleged.

## Road blockade

From Our Correspondent  
KUSHTIA, Sept 4: People of Bheramara blocked a road at Bheramara on August 21 in protest against frequent highway dacoity.

On the night of August 21 a gang of dacoits barricaded Hardkhal Math road under Bheramara thana by tiding wire with trees across the road and committed dacoity from several trucks and looted Taka 10 thousand from the drivers.

After the incident a huge number of trucks remained stranded on both side. Police came and the public demanded permanent police outpost on the road. After assurance given by the police the road was opened for traffic.

## Training course inaugurated

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, Sept 4: Two month-long training course on tailoring and embroidery under poverty alleviation programme of Rural Poor Cooperative Programme (RPCP) of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) was inaugurated at the Advance Centre for Courses in Engineering and Social Sciences (ACCESS) training centre at Magura on September 1 last, it was reported.

Presided over by Mohammed Benu Mia, Chairman, Thana Bittahin Central Cooperative Association, RPCP of BRDB, the training programme was addressed among others by Delwar Kabir, Area Coordinator ACCESS Limited as chief guest. Shakhawat Hossain Khan, Thana Project Officer, Bazur Rahman, Deputy Project Officer, RPCP of BRDB, M Altaf Rahman, Thana Rural Development Officer, Thana Central Cooperative Association and Toma Khondakar, Trainer, spoke on the occasion.

The speakers called upon the trainees to make the programme a success through proper training so that they can change their lifestyle and stand on their own feet after completion of the course.

It may be mentioned here that 20 distressed women have been taking training in ACCESS training centre in each batch.

## Rickshawpuller crushed to death

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 4: A rickshawpuller was crushed to death when his rickshaw was hit from behind by a bus at Majampur Railgate near traffic island Monday last. The victim was identified as Jalal and his rickshaw was heavily damaged. Police sent the body to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. Rickshawpullers afterwards brought out a procession with the dead body of Jalal and demanded adequate compensation for his family and punishment to the driver. A case has been lodged with Kushtia police station in this connection.

## Clash leaves 20 injured in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 4: At least 20 students were injured, five seriously, in a clash between the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal in Shajadpur thana recently, reports UNB.

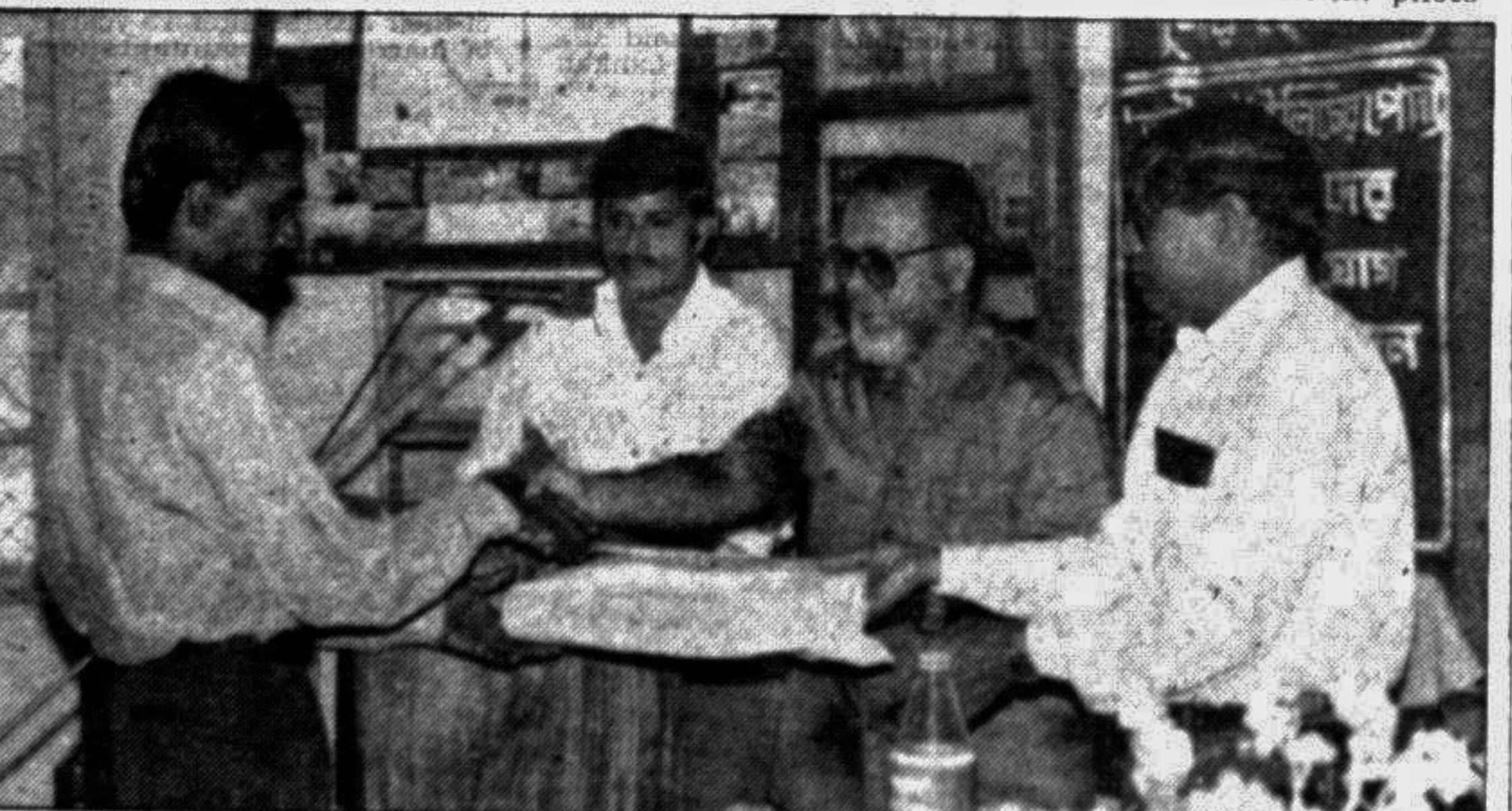
Witnesses said the clash erupted at about 11am when BCL activists allegedly attacked the JCD workers following a dispute over adorning the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Principal's office of Shajadpur College.

Both the rival groups used sharp weapons, including ramdao, during their hour-long fight. Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the warring groups.

Five of the injured were admitted to Potajia Health complex.



SHERPUR: Deputy Commissioner Md Naofel Mia inaugurated the fish fortnight 1996 programme at town hall on September 1. He later released fish fry in the pond in the Collectorate building premises. — Star photo



CHANDPUR: Prof Md Abdullah MP, distributing prizes among the best fishermen on the occasion of fish fortnight. — Star photo



CHANDPUR: A colorful rally was brought out which paraded the main streets of the town for creating awareness among the people about the fish production, preservation and marketing on the occasion of fish fortnight. — Star photo

## Flood, erosion cause extensive damage

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 4: The recent flash flood and the erosion by the river Padma and Arial Khan caused extensive damage to 23 unions under Sadar, Char Bhadrans, Sadarpur and Bhanga thanas of the district.

It was learnt from district administration that a total of one lakh sixty-one thousand and five hundred people have been affected in the flood. The flood and erosion damaged a total of three thousand one hundred and eighty dwelling houses

totally and 17 Thousand five hundred and fifty-one houses partially. Crops on eleven thousand hectares of land in the four thanas were partially damaged. The flood and erosion caused damages to 52 educational institutions, 12 bridges and 60 kilometres kutcha road in the thanas of the district.

Sufficient relief material should be disbursed among the flood and erosion affected people immediately.

## One to die for murder

SUNAMGANJ, Sept 4: District court here has awarded death sentence to a man for killing a woman and her child, reports UNB.

According to the complaint, Moniruddin of Bhuigaon village in Chhatrak thana strangled Chhayarunnesa, 32 and her 4-year-old son Ayaz at dead of night on April 29, 1994.

The Additional District and Session Judge Ahaj A K M Ishaq delivered the judgement last week after examining 14 witnesses and records, on the case filed by Arob Ali of Sadar village. Land dispute was said to be the motive behind the murder.