

Construction of power sub-station delayed

Rural electrification programme in Jessore suspended

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Sept 14: The rural electrification programme for current fiscal in five thanas of the district under Fallidiput Samity-1 (PBS-1) Jessore, has been suspended following delay by Rural Electrification Board (REB) to expedite order for constructing the proposed power sub-station at the thana headquarters recently.

According to official sources, this decision has been taken by local PBS-1 management considering pre-conditions that no new construction of line in any part of this thana would be taken up until proposed power sub-station in the thana was set-up.

In support of starting the primary work including survey for line construction, the source said that it was initiated in advance only to process the work.

It may be noted here that a total of 100 km new line construction was sanctioned for Chowgacha and Jhinkergacha thanas during the current fiscal.

Out of this 100 km, Chowgacha was given 60 km while Jhinkergacha was given 40 km, the source informed.

When contacted, General Manager, PBS-1, Jessore, Nazim Uddin Sarkar told The Daily Star that they began the survey anticipating that work order from REB to start construction of power sub-station would be received any moment. He also said that all formalities to issue work-order were completed. It was only awaiting signature of the Chairman for despatch. Reason for delay was not known.

When asked why the survey has been stopped when he was confident to get the work order soon, the GM in reply said that it has been done to avoid confusion among consumers.

To defend his latest decision he informed that the proposed power substation was an alternative to overcome loadshedding crisis. It would help save loadshedding keeping valued consumers less disturbed.

He said that total number of consumers till today is 68,000 under Jessore PBS-1.

Present number of house holds is 147,358 under the PBS-1, comprising Jessore sadar, Bagherpara, Sharsha, Jhinkergacha and Chowgacha thanas having population slightly over nine lakh.

A source on condition of anonymity told that mounting increase in loadshedding has virtually paralysed rural electrification programme. Failure by Power Development Board (PDB) to lend power to PBS-1 as per contract, has damaged the whole situation. The entire areas of five thanas covered under rural electrification programme by PBS-1, plunges into darkness from 6 pm to 10 pm.

The source also apprehended that during next IRRI season 600 irrigation machines and 200 small industrial units will be deprived of power connection in view of present loadshedding.

PBS-1, has so far extended 2,308 km lines in all the five thanas. It extended only 750 km during last five years. PBS-1 was established in 1981.

Chowgacha thana comprising of 11 unions with total population of two lakh, it is most backward and undeveloped in rural electrification. It was reported that Jessore PBS-1, is

still as its highest system-loss despite preconditions by the authority. Frequent power failure due to unprecedented loadshedding has been the cause, the source informed. Giving details of system-loss in last five years, the source said that during 1992-93 it was 12.45 per cent, 1993-94 it was 12.26 per cent, 1994-95 it was 12.29 per cent and 1995-96 it was 13.66 per cent.

The source informed that system-loss would largely come down if the proposed sub-station at Chowgacha was set-up, sooner the better.

The source also told that work of another proposed power sub-station at Baganchara of Sharsha thana in the district was pending for long adversely affecting extension of new line at Jhinkergacha and Sharsha thanas. The case of these two thanas was altogether different from that of Chowgacha, said the source.

Existing Navaran Power Sub-Station feeds Jhinkergacha and Sharsha. But, it has already reached its saturation point of capacity, the officials added.

BCL, JCD clash, seven students injured

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 14: At least seven students were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Mohepur Degree College in the district recently. It was reported.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the clash started following a trifling matter. At one stage both the student fronts faced each other with brick-bats and lethal weapons. At this at least seven students received injuries. Of the injured two were rushed to Mohepur Thana Health Complex, it was reported.

17 imprisoned for life in Cox's Bazar for murder

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 14: Some 17 people were awarded life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing a villager in Maheshkhali thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Additional Sessions Judge Abdul Mannan in his judgment also fined them Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer another three months RI more.

According to prosecution, the murder occurred following a dispute over damaging a paddy field by a goat at Kutubom Dhalipara in the thana on August 6, 1987.

On that day, the accused stormed the house of one M. Jalal and shot Chhoto Miah of the house to death. Another 12/13 people were injured in the attack.

Court sources said six convicted people were tried in absentia.

Alleged terrorist, toll collector arrested

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 14: Kushtia thana police has arrested one person identified as Manik, an alleged terrorist and toll collector on Sunday from Islamia College premises. On getting information Officer-in-Charge Kushtia Police Station sent a police squad in Islamia College where Manik was engaged in discussion with some students.

On seeing police, Manik tried to leave the place but failed and was arrested and taken to Kushtia Police station. Some students of Islamia College protested against arrest of Manik and entrance of police force in the campus without permission of the Principal. They later brought out procession and ransacked the office of principal. Students also tried to snatch Manik from police custody.

LGED undertakes programme to repair cyclone shelter

PATUAKHALI, Sept 14: Local Government Engineering Department has taken up a programme to repair the cyclone shelter at Latachapl union in Kalapara thana of the coastal district, reports UNB.

Official sources said the department has already arranged a press tender and allotted Tk 12, 63,042 for repair of the shelter within 90 days of the work order.

Another report said the execution of 32 schemes, eight in communication sector, four in agriculture, seven in irrigation and 13 in education sector undertaken by LGED are nearing completion.

A total of Tk 2.70 crore will be spent for execution of the schemes.

BNP activists protest alleged rigging in by-election

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 14: District BNP on Monday brought out a procession and held a rally protesting what they said massive rigging and violence by the activists of ruling party during September 5 by-elections, reports UNB.

Addressing the rally at Bazar Station in the town, the speakers demanded immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena. They also demanded repolling at Lakhsimpur and Mirsarai constituencies.

The rally was addressed, among others, by BNP leaders Humayun Islam Khan, Adv. Modasser Ali, Saiful Islam Shishir and JCD leader Nazmul Hasan.

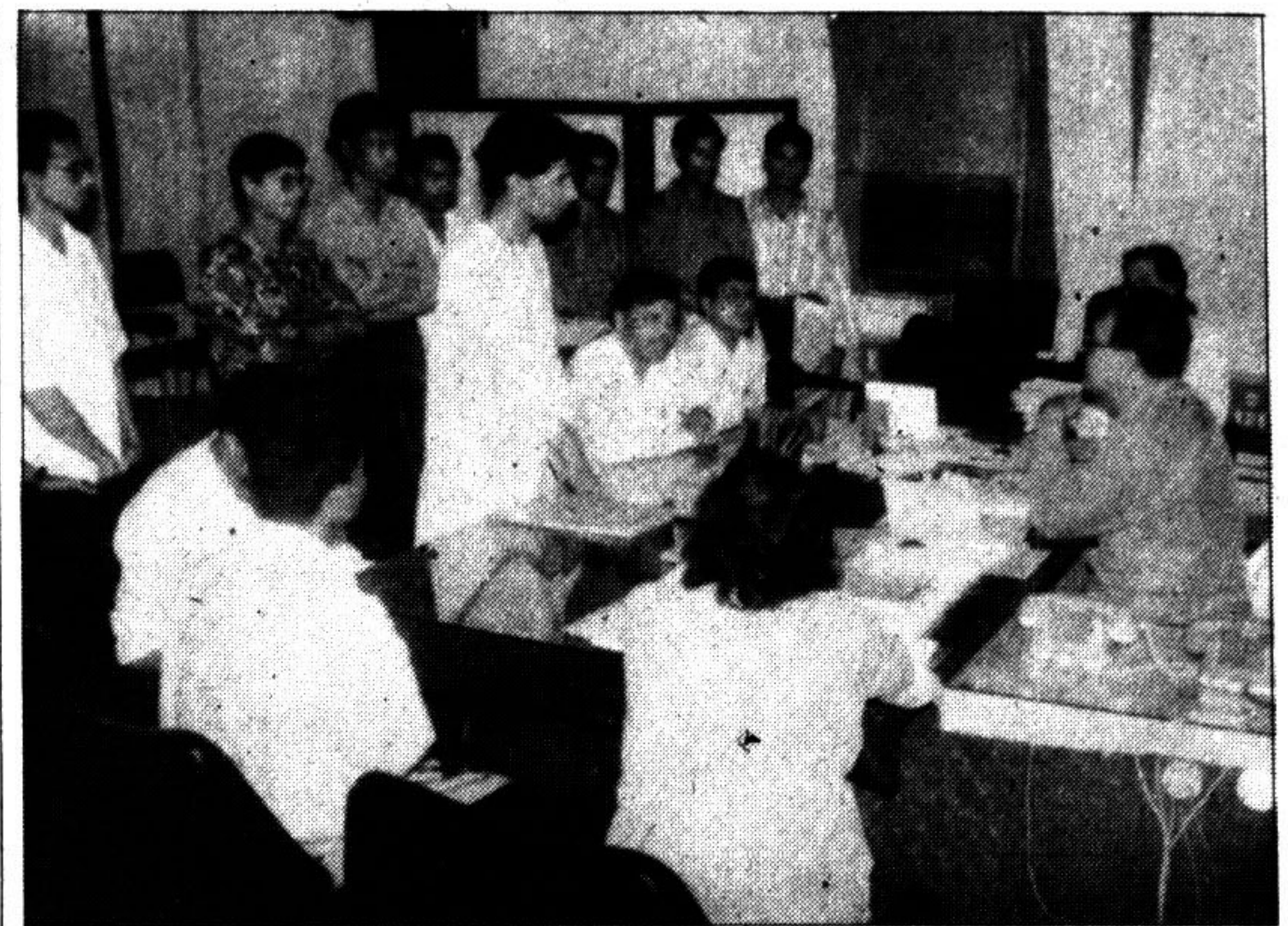
Minor girl burnt to death

COMILLA, Sept 14: A minor girl was burnt to death in her father's house on September 3 at Noargon village of Daudkandi thana in the district, reports UNB.

Police said, some unidentified people set fire to the house of Nazir Ahmed at about 2:30 am probably as a sequel to family feud.

The fire destroyed the house burning Tania, 7, daughter of Nazir Ahmed, to death.

A case of arson and homicide was filed with Daudkandi thana in this connection.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: The RU Press Club members called on Prof M Eusuff Ali RU VC at his office recently. The members urged VC for immediate installment of "on payment fax" inside the campus for better facilities and service of press and public relation office of the university. — Star photo

Sufficient bank loan crisis hits fishermen in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 14: More than one thousand fishermen in six thanas of the district have been facing manifold problems in carrying out their ancestral profession for want of fund and scarcity of fishing materials.

According to a statistical report, at least one thousand fishermen are engaged in the age-old profession in Jhenidah sadar, Saikupa, Harinakundu, Kaliganj, Kutchandpur and Mohepur thanas of the district. They are passing their days in extreme hardship due to shortage of sufficient bank loan. In absence of loans from the commercial banks they are to borrow money from moneylenders at a higher rate to finance their business, said Dhananjay Biswas, 55, a fisherman of village Jhaudia in Saikupa thana.

Dhananjay Biswas alleged

they were not in a position to draw loans from the commercial banks as they do not have sufficient land property to show a mortgage to banks. As a result, they are deprived of bank loans. He also said that most all of the

Seven held for alleged sex trade in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 14: Detective police rounded up seven persons including four young girls from Panna Villa on charge of sex trade.

The arrested persons are Abeda Sultana, 18, Mili, 25, Salma, 16, Mizan, 30, Rahman, 35, and Kajal, 28.

They were found in obnoxious condition, police said.

waterbodies are virtually waterless due to prolonged drought and insufficient rainfall which threw them in extreme trouble. A fisherman can hardly catch on an average 350 grams of fish which can not meet the requirements of a family, he added.

Durlav Majhee, 30, a fish seller of village Saikupa said that though the prices of fish increased in the market, the fishermen are not actually benefited from the profession as they are compelled to purchase the same at a higher rate due to insufficient supply of fish. Local people and political leaders appealed to the commercial bank authorities including Bangladesh Krishi Bank to disburse loan among the fishermen at a lower rate of interest rehabilitate them as well as to remove fish crisis at an early date.

One lakh children deprived of compulsory primary education

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 14: About one lakh children are deprived of compulsory primary education in six thanas of the district, it is learnt from reliable source.

Number of primary schools in six thanas is 593. Of these 455 are government managed and 138 are registered privately managed. In Kushtia sadar thana total number of school going children are 65858, but 15755 school going children are being deprived of the opportunity of admission due to absence of any school in many villages and some other reasons.

In Kumarkhali, thana total number of school going children is 50300. But only 32681 students have been admitted in 90 govt and 24 registered non govt primary schools. Rest 17625 children are being deprived of compulsory primary education as they have no school in their villages.

In Khoksa thana number of school going children is 19427 but 10404 have been admitted while 8713 are being deprived of being admitted. In Mirpur thana total number of children is 41631. But only 27613 are going to schools and the rest number of children fail to go in any school.

In Bheramara thana 18733 school going children have been admitted but total number of school going children are 28535 and as a result 9802 children are being deprived of getting any primary education.

In Daulatpur thana there are 68474 school going children but only 38026 children have got the opportunity to be admitted and rest 30440 children are not

getting any opportunity for education.

In all 96361 children are being deprived of compulsory primary education. Other causes are lack of awareness, poverty and lack of proper environment for education. The concerned authority have been urged to take steps in this respect to make the compulsory primary education a success.

Number of drop-outs in primary schools increasing

PATUAKHALI, Sept 14: The number of drop-outs in primary schools has been increasing in the remote rural areas of the district due to acute poverty, a study revealed, reports UNB.

The study conducted by a social welfare organisation said a large number of children, aged between eight and ten in char and coastal areas, are involved in small and odd jobs like cattle grazing, rickshaw peddling and so on instead of going to schools.

Most of them are from landless and poverty stricken farmers' family and they are forced to engage in odd jobs to eke out their living.

As a result, the number of primary school going children are decreasing in the remote rural areas of the district, the study added.

Local elite urged government to take necessary steps to start food for education programme in the remote areas to make the universal primary education programme a success.

Seminar on "Role of NGOs in socio economic dev" held

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Sept 14: A seminar titled Role of NGOs in socio economic development of rural areas side by side government efforts was held at Muhammadpur thana parishad auditorium in the district recently.

The seminar was organised by NGOs and clubs, association of Muhammadpur thana. The members and officials of eleven NGOs and some other clubs took part in the seminar, while Babul Chandra Roy, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Muhammadpur thana presided.

Manager BRAC, Munir Hossain, General Secretary of Surja Sanga Khasruzzaman, Jahangir Alam, official of Jagarani Chakra addressed the seminar.

A good number of people of different levels were present in the occasion.

Regional scouts confce held

BARISAL, Sept 14: A day long conference of Barisal Regional Scouts-96 was held at the circuit house premises on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Organised by the Scouts Commission, the function was attended by Badir Rahman, National Commissioner (Organising), Bangladesh Scouts as chief guest. It was participated by Yahia Moliah, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal and Chief Patron, Barisal Regional Scouts, as special guest.

The function was addressed by Professor Shahjahan Khan, Chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Jessore and President of Barisal Regional Scouts, A.K.M. Abdur Raul, Executive Secretary, Bangladesh Scouts and Atiur Rahman, Vice-President, Barisal Regional Scouts.

Protest rally held

BANDARBAN, Sept 14: The Citizens' Right Preserving Committee of Bandarban (CRPCB) held a rally on Friday in front of the local Press Club protesting the killing of 30 woodcutters in Baghaichhari by the outlawed Santibahini on September 11, reports UNB.

Addressing the rally, the speakers said at least 6,500 people were killed in the hill district by the activists of Santibahini in the last 20 years. Of them, 5000 were non-tribals, 1000 tribals and 500 members of law enforcement agencies.

They said Santibahini hoodlums have created a reign of terror in the hill districts for a long time.

They urged all non-tribal people of the area to be united to save their life and property. They also called upon the members of law enforcement agencies to ensure safety of the peace-loving people.

Chaired by Mohammad Emran Khan, the rally was addressed, among others, by Dattilur Rahman, Rashid Ahmed, Anisur Rahman, Advocate Mohitul Hossain, M A Hashem, Abdul Kuddus, Abdul Mabud, Majibur Rashid, Mashur Rahman, Jamshid Uddin, S A Akber and Nadirul Alam.

Widespread pest attack reported in Magura

MAGURA, Sept 14: Widespread pest attack has been reported from Shalikhtha thana in the district damaging standing aman paddy in the area.

The agriculture officials said, transplanted aman on 10 acres of land of Arpara, Bunagali, Gangarampur, Shalikhtha, Shatakhali, Talkhari and Dhaneswargati Union under Shalikhtha thana in the district have been affected by 'pamri' and 'majra-pokas'. They said, 'majra-pokas' are cutting inside and green paddy plant are turning white due to attack of 'pamri' pokas.

Local farmers said they are not getting fruitful results using pesticides in their paddy field.

Farmers are being advised on remedial measures to save their transplanted aman from 'pamri' and 'majra' attack, the sources said.

Three youngmen arrested

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 14: Jhenidah thana police arrested three youngmen in connection with the alleged killing of ward commissioner of Jhenidah pourashava, Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, from Arappur area in the town recently, according to police sources.

Reports say, acting on a tip police raided the area and arrested Anwar Hossain of village Vekutia in Jessore Kotwali thana, Santu and Nazrul Islam alias Zinna of Arappur in the night of September 9 last.

The arrested were sent to jail-hazat, police said.

ISD exchange demanded

COMILLA, Sept 14: Businessmen and local elite have demanded installation of direct ISD exchange in the district headquarters to facilitate easy and quick overseas calls, reports UNB.

They have to go to Dhaka or Chittagong to contact their relatives and business partners abroad after waiting for days to get a connection from Comilla, they alleged.

The telephone subscribers, they said, were incurring huge loss in terms of money and time while the government was losing revenue.

A project to install an 800-line trunk exchange here was not implemented yet, they said. Two ISD card phone booths at Comilla head post office and the Public Call Office remain out of order most of the time, they said.

Immediate rehabilitation plan needed for flood victims

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 14: Flood situation in Pabna has slightly improved with recession of flood-water both in the Padma and Jamuna but vast areas in many thanas of Pabna sadar, Ishurdi, Sujanagar, Bera, Chatmohar, Bhangora and Faridpur were still under water. Water-logging is extremely acute rendering internal road-communication and cultivation of land almost quite impossible in most of the affected areas.

Recurring flood in both the

ments. The cattle-heads in affected areas numbering about 70,000 left helpless victims of the situation.

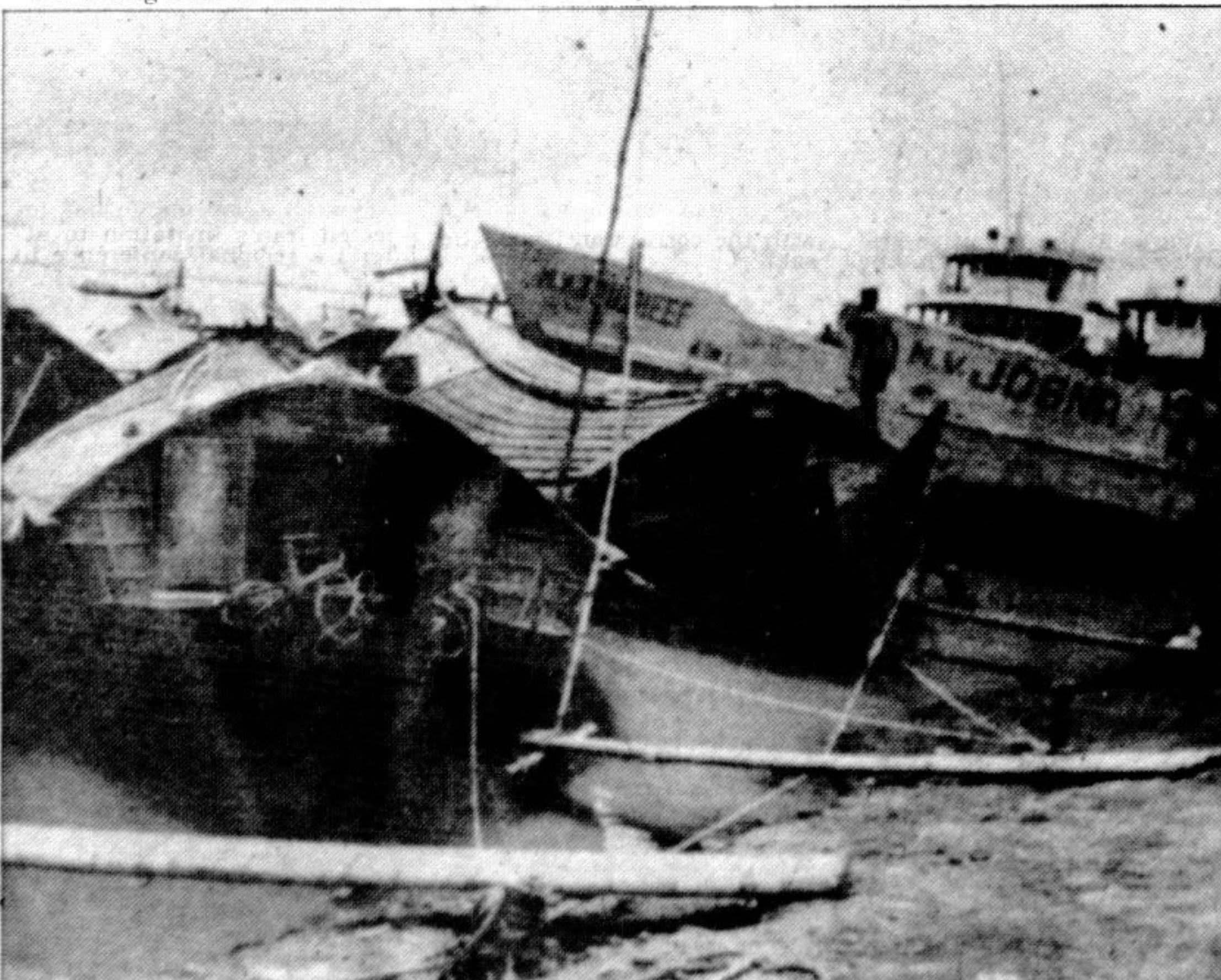
Fodder crisis is still very acute in all the affected areas and food for the cattle became a serious problem. The health condition of the cattle became much shattered and the cultivators suspect, most of their cattle would not be in a position physically to do their jobs like tilling of land etc. Due to their ill-health caused by lack of food. Most of the pasture-lands

programmes and other such works were yet made by the government. These programmes were meant for employing the day-labourers thrown out of job as an effect of flood or other such natural calamities in lieu of wheat or rice. These were considered by the victims as of immense help in time of their need. The chairman pleaded for immediate introduction of these programmes.

Ferdous Alam Khan alias

Gyadamoni, Chairman, Char

Tarapur Union Parishad under



PABNA: Boats reserved for carrying relief goods are seen waiting near Nagarbari ferry ghat. — Star photo

big rivers along with at least five of their tributaries caused widespread damages to the standing crops, thatched and tin-shades were largely destroyed, internal road communication net-work was badly disrupted, hats and bazars were washed away, schools and colleges had to be declared closed — many of which, were yet to be reopened. Vegetable plants were mercilessly destroyed and at least 1,00,000 persons connected with cultivation of land were rendered out of employment.

According to an estimate, over three lakh people were affected due to recurring floods this year — hitting the districts on three subsequent occasions. At least 50,000 houses were completely and 30,000 others were partially damaged. Over 30,000 people took shelter on the flood control embankment.

The chairman of Bharara union, Pabna sadar thana, Mosharrar Hossain said that no arrangement for food for work

in the affected areas were still lying under water.

Already the milching cows were not giving milk in normal quantity and even their calves were not getting milk from their mother-cows adequate which were telling heavily upon their health. Many calves are learnt to have died while many others were suffering from acute malnutrition.

The landless peasants or day-labourers, numbering over 1,00,000 were thrown out of job and they have got no work in the fields for over three consecutive months. Since the land they were supposed to cultivate were still lying mostly under water, prospect of their finding job remained still bleak.

The chairman of Bharara union, Pabna sadar thana, Mosharrar Hossain said that no arrangement for food for work

Pabna sadar thana told this correspondent that with the recession of flood-water, the shelterless people were very much eager to go back to their homes and about 40 per cent of them have already returned. But for want of adequate house-building grants and also due to abnormally high prices of all sorts of the building materials, the construction, re-construction or repair of their damaged or houses were not possible. The poor amount of house-building grant, although already sanctioned but not yet distributed — could be able to cover not more than 15 to 20 per cent of the genuinely needy people. He strongly demanded sanction of adequate amount towards house-building purposes and also sanction of sufficient quantity of CI sheets that could be of immense help to the affected poor people.

Over Tk 28 cr loan lying outstanding with RAKUB

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 14: Loan of Tk 28 crore 65 lakh 76 thousand distributed from Rajshahi Krishi Unnoyan Bank (RAKUB) on fish sector has been lying outstanding for long.

This was disclosed by Md Mubarak Hussain, Deputy General Manager of RAKUB on his paper titled 'The role of loan giving organisation on extension of fish culture'.

He was presenting his paper at a workshop on 'Breeding been given for project of fish farm and installment of nursery. Tk 26 lakh 73 thousand for establishment of fish hatchery and Tk nine lakh 46 thousand loan was distributed under renovation programme of water bodies'.

Prof M Altaf Hussain, Pro Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi

University presided over this session of the day-long workshop.

To be mentioned here that RAKUB distributes loan to the problems on fish fry production and development of fish re-

BKB disburses agri-loan of Tk 1.26 cr

NOAKHALI, Sept 14: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has disbursed Tk 1.26 crore as agriculture loan on the region during the current fiscal, reports UNB.

The bank said official sources realised Tk 1.14 crore of agri-loan during the same time through its 17 branches

sources" organised by Fish Directorate, Rajshahi division, in connection with observance of fish fortnight '96 at the Senate hall of Rajshahi University on September 8 last.

Md Mubarak giving the break up of loan said among the aforementioned loan Tk 10 crore 19 lakh 16 thousand was given under special loan programme of fish culture. Tk 18 crore 10 lakh 41 thousand has concerned fishermen on condition that loan should be repaid in four installments in equal amount of money with interest and its repaying starts right after 18 months of distribution.

Normally RAKUB distributes highest amount of Tk 17,200 for each Bigha land for fish culture and loan was given for the pond measuring at least three Bighas.