

National

Aman paddy procurement drive in Natore may end in fiasco

From M A Ali Himu

NATORE, Jan 19: Aman paddy procurement drive in the district is about to end in a fiasco due to whimsical attitude of officials of the food department.

Not a single grain of aman paddy or rice has been purchased at some food godowns in the district so far.

The food department has fixed the purchasing target of aman paddy and rice in the district at 1500 metric tons which is very disappointing for a region like Natore in North where like every year aman paddy is produced in surplus quantity. The places where output of aman is said to be very good are Gurudaspur, Boraigram and Shringra thanas under the country's greatest Chalan beel areas.

According to official sources, a total of 750 metric tons of aman paddy and another 750 metric tons of aman rice will be purchased from six thanas of the district.

Of these targetted figures — 200 metric tons of aman paddy and 200 metric tons of rice will be collected from Shringra thana, 150 metric tons of paddy and 150 metric tons of rice from Gurudaspur thana and 100 metric tons of paddy and 100 metric tons of rice will be purchased from each thanas of Boraigram, Bagatipara, Lalpur and sader.

During this season, about 87,000 metric tons of aman paddy have been produced in the district, Agriculture Extension Department sources said.

But, the food department has reportedly settled the target to procure only 1,725 per cent of aman paddy and rice from total output from six thanas of the district this year.

Whereas, from other thanas of some neighbouring districts, the food departments are collecting a huge quantity of aman rice and paddy which is much more than that being collected from six thanas of Natore district.

The food department has targetted to procure 2000 metric tons of aman paddy and rice from Nachol thana alone of Chapainawabganj this year. Whereas, the department last year had fixed it's target to procure 2,104 metric tons of paddy and rice from the five thanas of Chapainawabganj district.

On the other hand, only 1,500 metric tons of aman paddy and rice has been targetted to be collected from six thanas of Natore district this reason as against about 7,000 metric tons of aman paddy and rice targetted last season.

The department had also been able to achieve target to purchase 12,250 metric tons of paddy and rice from the district during last IRRI-Boro procurement drive.

The growers are not getting fair prices at open markets as smaller quantity of the total produced aman paddy are being purchased by the government.

The food department in Dhaka this year settled the countrywide aman procurement target upto thana levels that is being considered as the cause of the problem.

Millers of the district are also sufferers of this problem. They are fearing that they may have to incur a huge loss as the government allocation for the millers for boiling rice this year is not sufficiently in good quantity.

The government procurement rate of aman paddy and rice have been fixed this

year at Taka 670 and Taka 1050 per quintal respectively. So, according to calculation, aman paddy and rice are being purchased at Taka 250 and Taka 393 per maund with 14 per cent moisture.

But, the coarse aman paddy is selling in most markets of the district between Tk 190 and Tk 215 per maund. The fine quality of aman paddy has been selling between Tk 210 and Tk 225 per maund. However, the prices of coarse and fine quality of aman rice are varying between Tk 335 and Taka 350 per maund.

There appears little hope of any appreciable change of the prices as the government procurement drive has not been geared up to full swing as yet.

The aman procurement drive has been started with effect from last December 01 and expected to be concluded on January 31.

The district food office sources said that they have purchased only 98.35 metric tons of aman paddy and 256.88 metric tons of rice till January 13.

Of these purchased paddy and rice, 65.24 metric tons of paddy and 22.64 metric tons of rice has been collected from Sadar thana, 9.8 metric tons of paddy and 19.4 metric tons of rice from Shringra, 0.28 metric tons of paddy and 40.24 metric tons of rice from Bagatipara, 2.1 metric tons of paddy from Gurudaspur, 19.46 metric tons of paddy from Boraigram and 1.47 metric tons of aman paddy has been collected from Lalpur thana. Aman rice procurement at Gurudaspur and Boraigram thana is yet to be started because of meddling of local MP of the area, it is alleged.

Not a single grain of rice has been purchased at Lalpur thana as yet.

When asked about the cause of dissatisfaction picture of aman procurement drive, inspite of fixing such poor target, the District Controller of Food (DCF) told The Daily Star that millers of the district are showing less interest to sell aman paddy and rice to the LSD godowns as much less quantity of allocation were given to selected 92 millers. Where as, there are 314 licensed mills in the district.

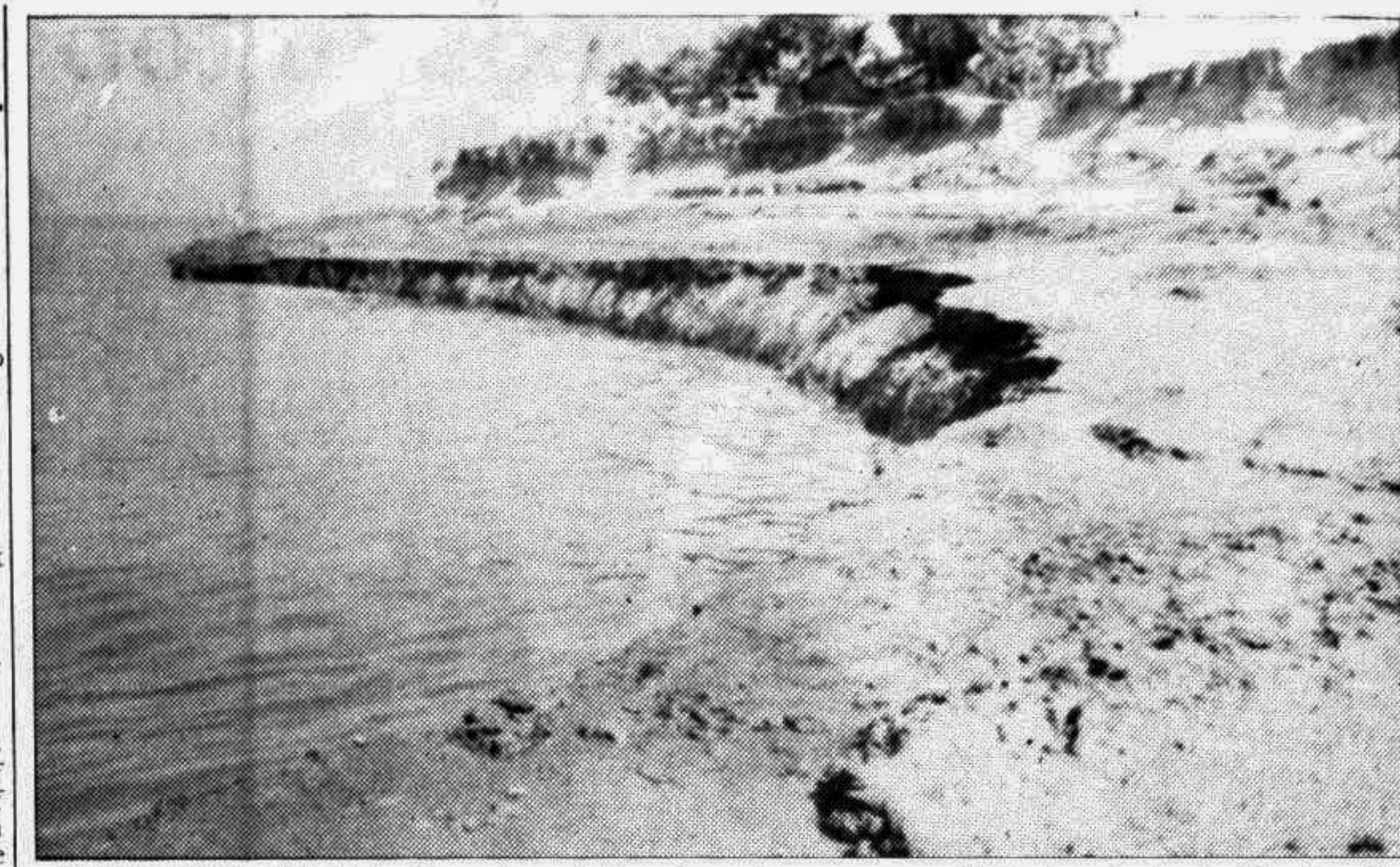
The DCF added that the growers are also avoiding selling of their aman paddy to the LSD godowns due to non-availability of necessary quantities of gunny-bags and comparatively high rate of carrying cost.

On the other hand, the DCF mentioned that in most cases, supply of paddy is rejected by the godown officials as the quality of paddy, the farmers willing to sell, is not so good.

The growers are reluctant to supply their aman crops to government godowns as most of them do not prefer to receive payment through the banks which, according to them, is both time-consuming and troublesome.

There are allegations that sometimes, the godown officials take away 10 kilograms excess rice per maund from the growers on the plea of excessive moisture.

The official sources added that in Natore district, capacity of godowns are 7,500 metric tons of food grains. There are seven LSD godowns in the district under food department. At present, there are total of 1,500 metric tons of food grains, some drums and gunny-bags in the seven LSD godowns in the district.



JAMALPUR : Unabated erosion of the river Jamuna near Bahadurabad ghat in the district.

— Star photo

Ban on use of wood in brick kilns defied

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 19: Wood is being burnt at random in most of the brick-kilns of the district. Fuel-wood is being sold at high rates. As a result, garden owners are selling their mango trees. The kilns

brick-field and brick-kiln owners use wood instead of coal for baking bricks every year. This phenomenon goes on at random. Last year the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Nawabganj Sadar thana, making a surprise visit to some brick-kilns saw stocks of wood for burning and recommended to the they Deputy Commissioner (DC) for taking necessary action against the brick kiln owners. But for some unknown reason, no action was taken. As a result, this year also they have begun burning wood at the brick kilns at random.

Besides, a remarkable number of kiln owners bake bricks without any licence. Not only that they are making brick-kilns here and there without caring a little for the environment. It is alleged that innumerable brick-kilns have been constructed in and around the mango chards at Shibganj. According to the observers, the size of mangoes are becoming

little due to this phenomenon. In order to check the environmental pollution and also to save government revenue immediate action by the concerned higher authorities is necessary.

263 illegal arms recovered from Khulna last year

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 19: Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) recovered a total of 263 unauthorised firearms during last one year from different places of the city. Pigeons are outnumbering the recovered firearms, said KMP source. Most of the firearms were found abandoned, the source said.

The recovered illegal firearms include four rifles, one sawed-off rifle, five SBL gun, two DBL guns, three home-made guns, four sawed-off guns, eight home-made revolvers, 15 foreign revolvers, five home-made pistols, five foreign pistols, one toy pistol, five shutter guns and 205 pigeons.

Gaibandha Pourashava Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Infrastructures Implementation Section (IIS)

Tender Notice No. 3/96-97

Re-Tender Notice

Dated: 12.1.97

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from Asian Development Bank under ADB Loan No. 1376 BAN(SF) towards the cost of the Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II for 21 (Twenty-one) Pourashava, namely Bagerhat, Barisal, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chapainawabganj, Comilla, Fardipur, Jamalpur, Jessore, Jhenidah, Madaripur, Magura, Munshiganj, Natore, Noakhali, Razbari, Rangamati, Sirajganj, Tangail, Thakurgaon & Gaibandha. The undersigned intends to take up under the same loan different types of works as shown below under the 1996-97 implementation programme, sealed tenders for implementation of the works are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 from the 1st Class Contractors of Gaibandha Pourashava & Pre-qualified contractors of all the Projects under LGED having VAT Registration Certificate under the Act of VAT Registration of Service Code 3004.00

Interested Contractor can obtain necessary tender documents during normal office hour on all working days up to 28.1.97 from the office of the either (i) The Project Director, Secondary Towns Infrastructure Development Project-II, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 or (ii) Executive Engineer, LGED, Gaibandha (III) Municipal Engineer (AE), ESFOS, PIU, Gaibandha Pourashava (iv) Office, the Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha, Dist. Gaibandha on each payment of money in the tender notice (non-refundable) after obtaining written approval from the respective officer for purchase of tender documents on showing documentary evidence of their contractor's licence. Tender will be received by abovementioned offices up to 12:00 Noon on 29.1.97. No tender will be accepted beyond this time & tender will be opened at 12:30 PM on the same day in the presence of tenderers, if any.

Interested tenderers may gather necessary information regarding tender & work from the abovementioned offices during normal office hour on all the working days. Tender must be accompanied by all relevant papers & earnest money at 2.0% (Two point zero per cent) of the Total Price in favour of the undersigned.

VAT Registration Certificate must be enclosed along the bid both, income tax & VAT in respect of each payment will have to be paid by the contractor as per providing rules & regulations of the Government of Bangladesh. The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all the tenders with assigning any reason thereof tenders not complying with the stipulated conditions will be treated as non-responsive & will be rejected.

SI No	Gr No	Name of work	Estimated Cost Tk	Earrest money	Cost of tender document	Completion time for work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

1 GBD-1S-96001 Re-const of Road Khankasharif to Rail Station by the Bituminous Carpeting. (Ch. O to 90.00 M. & 208.00M to 725.00M) Eft. Length 607.00M.

Terms & Conditions of the Tender

- Tender will be summarily rejected if:
 - Tenderer will not sign in every page of the Tender document.
 - Tender is submitted without required earnest money.
 - Additional condition is imposed by the tenderer.
 - Without signature for the overwriting if any.
 - Tender is submitted more than 5.00% less than the estimated cost.
 - Tender is submitted more than 5.00% above than the estimated cost.
- VAT registration certificate to be submitted with tender.
- Eligible contractor should be deposited 10% security money in favour of XEN, LGED, Gaibandha in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order before taking Work Order.
- VAT & IT will be deducted from gross bill amount i.e. before deduction of salvage materials.
- Payment will be made on the basis of availability of fund.
- If required, Lottery will be held on 3/2/97 at 11:00 AM at the office of the undersigned.

Executive Engineer
LGED, Gaibandha &
Head of IIS, PIU
Gaibandha Pourashava



TANGAIL: The construction works of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) progressing

— Star photo

Urea fertilizer crisis in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 19: A minor boy aged about 10 was reportedly killed at Kamnagar village of Bagmara thana yesterday.

The local people caught the alleged killer red handed when he was digging a grave to bury the unfortunate boy.

According to police, some labourers, while going across the Lakati beel saw a man digging earth with a big bag beside him. On suspicion, they challenged him and after opening the bag, found the body of a boy. The head and an arm were detached from the body.

They took the man and the corpse to the villagers.

The man was identified as Abdul Khaleque, son of the late Nanir Foujdar of the same village while the victim was identified as Golam Mostafa, 10, the only child of one Abdul Kader of the neighbouring village Sajpara.

In Gaibandha there are 34 fertilizer dealers. Of them 14 for Gaibandha sadar, two for Sadulapur, 8 for Shaghata, 7 for Gobindaganj, two for Palashbari and one for Sunder-

ganj thana.

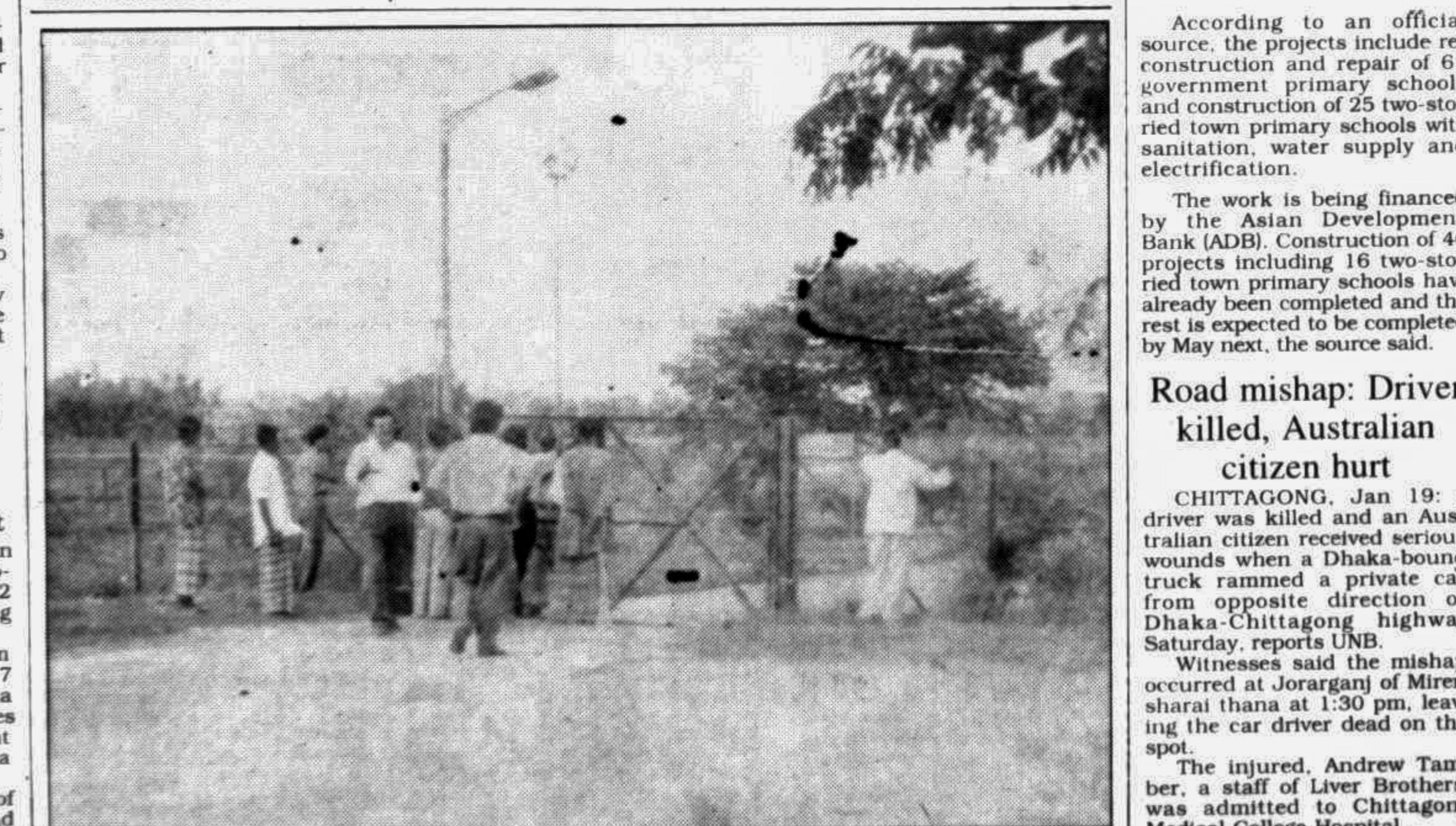
According to agriculture extension department, a total of 67,650 hectare of lands have been brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation in the district during the ensuing crop season. Urea fertilizer has become a common chemical.

According to farmers, they usually use 150 kg of urea per acre against specific dose of 80 kg. Moreover, farmers are using excess quantity of urea in wheat field and other crop field as well as fish cultivation. As a result the demand of urea is continuously increasing day by day. Urea fertilizer is being sold at Tk 274 per 50 kg bag in the local market.

BCIC should enhance the quota of fertilizer for Gaibandha and ensure its prompt supply to overcome the probable crisis in the ensuing IRRI-Boro crop season.

The villagers handed over Abdul Khaleque to the Bagmara police. A case has been filed.

The cause of the gruesome murder was not known.



— Star photo

Loadshedding PDB engineer assaulted in Nalchhiti
From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Jan 19: The Resident Engineer (RE) of PDB of Nalchhiti thana was allegedly assaulted by some local people this morning.

Witnesses said, a group of people brought out a procession at about 11 am protesting irregular power supply at Nalchhiti. They gheraoed the local PDB office and pelted brick bats. At one stage, they assaulted Nazrul Islam, RE.

Soon after the incident police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Later the Nagarik Committee of Barisal gave an ultimatum to the PDB demanding regular power supply in the town, otherwise they would stop payment of electric bills.

The Power Consumers Samity of Barguna district also brought out a procession demanding regular power supply yesterday. The angry people also gheraoed the PDB office at Barisalpara.

Works of Shibganj stadium going on in full swing
From Our Correspondent
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 19: The construction of Shibganj stadium at the cost of Tk 2 crore and 4 lakh has been going on in full swing.

It is known, this stadium has been being constructed on 7 acres of land. Shibganj Thana Krira Parishad had only 3 acres and the rest had to be bought from the adjacent gardens at a cost of Tk 60 lakh.

According to an officials of Shibganj Thana Krira Parishad the opening ceremony of the stadium is supposed to be held in the March.