

News snaps

Six commit suicide in 2 days

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, July 18: Six persons including three women committed suicide here in the district within the period of two days.
 Poverty and ailment are attributed to this suicidal incident. The victims are Momtin, 17, and Hakim, 24, of village Belka in Sunderganj, Tara Begum, 26, a housewife of village Paran in Sunderganj thana, Amena Khatun, 32, of village Balda in Saghata Thana, Ansar Ali, 50, of village Dhanarua in Saghata thana, Anowara Begum, 30, of village Bhangmore in Sadulla-pur thana committed suicide. Of them Momtin, Hakim and Tara Begum ended their lives by taking pesticide. Three others Amena Khatun Ansar Ali and Anowara Begum committed suicide by hanging themselves with rope. Separate UD cases were filed with the respective thanas.

Death condoled

From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, July 18: Dr M S Akbar, MP Magura condoled the death of the head master of Masalia Junior Girls' High School of Masalia village in Sripur thana recently.
 He met with the family members of the deceased and expressed his profound grief and shock.
 The MP also visited Masalia Junior Girls' High School and spoke in a gathering. He praised the dedication of the newly founded girls' school. He demanded punishment to the killers of the late head master.

Outlaw shot dead

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, July 18: An activist of an outlawed party was shot dead by unknown armed men at Zabdalur bazar in Kotchandpur thana at about 7pm on Saturday, according to police.
 He was identified as Yar Ali, 30. Police said, the killers opened gun shot from a close range and Yar died on the spot. He was gossipping there. A case was filed with Kotchandpur thana in this connection.

7,830 people will get old-age allowance

CHANDPUR, July 18: A total of 7,830 people will get old-age allowance in 87 unions of seven thanas, reports BSS.
 According to an official source, the thana-wise break-up is: Matlab, 540 in Haimchar 1,440, in Faridganj 1080, in Kachua 900 in Hajiganj, 1060 in Chandpur and 860 in Shaharasi. Taka 7.83 lakh will be spent every month in Chandpur district for implementation of the scheme.

Rickshawpuller killed in road accident

KUSHIA, June 18: A rickshawpuller was killed in a road accident at Five-Road square in the town recently, reports UNB.
 The accident took place when a truck rammmed into a rickshaw-van in the morning. The victim was identified as Badrudin Badu, 58, of Hatas Haripur village. Van pullers, however, seized the truck and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding compensation for the victim's family.

75 bottles of phensidyl recovered

MYMENSINGH, July 18: CID police recovered 75 bottles of Indian phensidyl from Shambhuganj bus stand at the district town and arrested a man in this connection recently, reports UNB.
 Police sources said the contraband was recovered from the possession of one Farid of Kishoreganj district who was on way home. A case was filed with the police.

Sale of cigarettes up on No Tobacco Day

BARISAL, July 18: Bidi and cigarettes worth about Tk 71.70 thousand were sold in this divisional town in 13 hours despite observance of the 'No Tobacco Day', according to a local survey report here recently, reports BSS.
 The report said these bidi and cigarettes were sold from the retail shops in the period. Besides, drugs worth Tk 21 lakhs are being sold in the town in a month from different retail shops as well as whole sale places. The survey was conducted on 50 shops at hospital Road, Swa Road, Magadi, Sadar Road and Bund Road areas of the town, the report added.

65 hemp plants seized

NETRAKONA, July 18: The Narcotics Control Department in a special drive recently seized 65 hemp plants worth about Taka five thousand from village Baraparua in Kalmakanda thana, reports BSS.
 An official source here said, acting on a tip-off a special squad of Narcotics Control Department cordoned off two houses of the village and seized hemp plants. A case was filed against the owners of the two houses under the Narcotics Control Act.

Miladunnabi celebrated

MANIKGANJ, July 18: The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi was celebrated here last week with due religious fervour and festivity, reports BSS.
 Different social and religious organisations arranged elaborate programmes on this occasion. The Manikganj district unit of Islamic Foundation, district administration, pourasava, and Manikganj Sadar Thana Parishad jointly organised a three-day long programme from July 7. The three-day programme included essay and Islamic cultural competition among school and college students, Imam conference, women meeting, seminars, waz-mahfil and prize giving ceremony.

Population Day observed

MADARIPUR, July 18: World Population Day '98 was observed here in a befitting manner on July 12, reports BSS.
 About 350 workers and employees, family planning organisation and government offices brought out a procession on the day. The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town carrying colourful placards, festoons and banners with slogans to motivate people in adopting family planning methods. The procession was led by Shahjahan Khan MP. A seminar was held on this occasion at the local TTDC Auditorium. Shahjahan Khan MP, attended the seminar as the chief guest while Farhad Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur presided over.

Harassment by toll collectors alleged

JAMALPUR, July 18: The harassment by the toll collectors of lease-holders of the hat-bazars in Islampur thana here have already been exceeded the limit, local sufferers alleged, reports UNB.
 They alleged that the selling and buying activities in these hat-bazars, particularly in Dharmakura, had become impossible due to the excesses of the lease-holders. Local sources said many traders of Dharmakura, the biggest hat of the thana were already forced to shut down their businesses or shift to other hats to run their business due to the reason. According to the government rules, the tolls are to be collected as per the fixed rate that are usually hung in the hats and bazars but the lease-holders are realising excessive tolls by force. The traders and buyers also alleged that local administration remain silent spectators on this matter due to mysterious reasons.

Over Tk 1 cr schemes being implemented

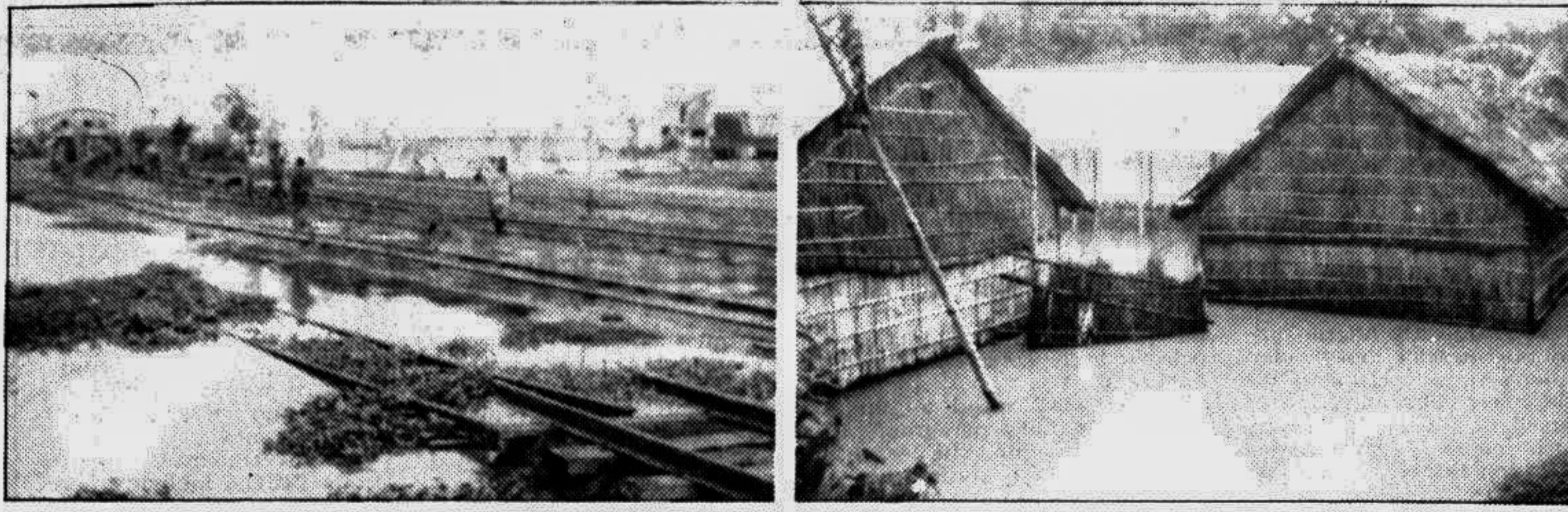
CHUADANGA, July 18: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has been implementing nine schemes in three thanas of Chuadanga district at a cost of Taka 1,94,81,000, reports BSS.
 According to an official source, seven schemes are being implemented in Chuadanga sadar and one each in Damurhuda and Jibannagar. The work of the schemes included construction of a three-storey hostel for Chuadanga Government Girls College, construction of Dighr Government Primary School building, Chuadanga Old GM Madrasah building, Saragani Non-government Boys' School building, the academic building of Chuadanga Government College, Rezia Khatun Government Primary School building and Jheuk Government Primary School building under Chuadanga sadar thana and construction of a vocational training centre at Damurhuda and another vocational training centre at Jibannagar.

Rampant stealing of tubewells

SUNAMGANJ, July 18: Acute scarcity of pure water has been prevailing in the bordering areas of Tahirpur thana due to rampant stealing of tube-wells, reports UNB.
 Local people said a number of such incidents from Laurergarh, Puranlaur and Mokshedpur villages of the thana recently created panic among the tube-well owners. They said one tube-well of Zahirul Alam of Laurergarh village and two of new mosque of Puran Laur village were stolen on June 24. The burglars take away the upper portion of the tube-well making it inoperative. Local people have urged the authorities to take necessary steps against the burglars without further delay.

Call to check river erosion

FARIDPUR, July 18: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak asked the concerned officials to take up the best of precautionary measures to face the overall flood situation and check the river erosion in the country, reports BSS.
 The minister was presiding over a meeting of the officials of Bangladesh River Research Institute (BRI) in its conference room here. Razzak called for strengthening the role of this institute in various development activities including water management in the water sector.



GAIBANDHA: The railway tracks at Teestamuk Ghat about to be submerged by flood water.

50,000 river erosion affected people living in sub-human condition

PABNA, July 18: About 50,000 people who became homeless due to river erosion in the last five years here are now living in sub-human condition, reports UNB.
 These shelterless people of at least 10,000 families have taken shelter on 15 km bank along at Bera thana bazar to Natabari and are suffering badly from malnutrition and hunger.
 Official sources said these people used to live in 15 villages of seven unions which were totally devoured during the last five years. Part of 18 other vil-

lages also went into river during the period.
 The most affected unions are: Haturia Nakalia, Nutan Bharenga and Puran Bharenga.
 When visited, the UNB correspondent found the people living congested on the embankment without having adequate food and medical treatment facilities.
 There is no tubewell and latrine in the area and the people are forced to respond to the call of nature here and there vitiating the atmosphere.
 Marium Khatun, 32, of Nayanpur village alleged that they did not get any relief since her house devoured by the mighty Jamuna a few years back.
 She said most of them are suffering from skin and other water-borne diseases due to want of pure water and medical treatment.
 Many other affected people also narrated the same pitiable conditions in which they are living without government relief and care.
 When contacted, the Deputy Commissioner said no measures have yet been taken up officially in this regard.



SYLHET: Several thousand tonnes of soft wood procured for production of pulp have been lying under open sky and getting damaged in the premises of Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills (SPPM) at Chhatak. The BCIC concern remained shut down for over 3 months since a huge amount of money of the mills have been lying outstanding with different buyers.

Faridpur Pourasava fails to provide basic amenities to town dwellers

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, July 18: More than a century old Faridpur Pourasava is gripped with multifarious problems.
 Established in the year 1869, Faridpur Pourasava has a glorious past. It was upgraded to class one pourasava nearly seven years ago. But the people are yet to get the benefits and privileges of a dignified pourasava. The municipality taxes have been doubled or tripled in the name of upgradation.

There are about 50 derelict ponds and a good number of canals which have turned into ideal breeding places of mosquitoes and other nuisances. There is no good drainage system in the pourasava. As a result some important areas of the town go under knee-deep water just after a shower or rain for a few minutes.
 There are, of course, two or three pucca drains which have no outlets. These drains always remain filled with filth and human excreta causing woeful health hazards. Besides, the pourasava has no public latrines and urinals within its jurisdiction for the pedestrians who commit nuisance here and there when they are called by nature. This pollutes the environments.

Hundreds of welding machines have been set up on either side of the main streets without the least care for public health. Moreover, goldsmiths at Nilutuly area in the main town use acid for purifying gold in open places. This process emits pungent smell and smoke which are very detrimental to public health.
 Deploable and unhygienic conditions have been persisting in all markets of the town. Butcher's house and the morgue situated in close vicinity are vitiating the atmosphere of the locality as neither of them is kept clean. Over and above, shanties have sprung up on either side of the river Kumer that runs through the town dividing the poura area into two equal parts. The people living in the shanties throw their waste into the river polluting its water.
 The pourasava has totally failed to provide poura dwellers, specially children with recreational facilities. There is an apology for a children's park beside the shishu hospital where no children visit because of absence of playing appliances.
 A social organisation — "Paribesh Forum" recently met the poura chairman Fazul Kabir Chan and handed over to him a memorandum containing manifold problems of the pourasava demanding immediate solution to them.
 The poura Chairman assured the forum that he would take all possible steps to mitigate the problems.

Festivals of Garo, Hajong tribals

BARISHALI, Netrakona, July 18: Owangala and Deull, two festivals of Garo and Hajong tribal communities, ended in the greater Mymensingh with due importance recently, reports UNB.
 The Garo community celebrates their main festival 'Owangala' to thank and oblige the gods and goddesses with prayers and seeking blessings from Tatarararuga, the main god of the community.
 A cultural celebration with dance-song and drink is also an additional attraction of the festival.
 Daull, the national festival of Hajong group, is celebrated with a special and unique cultural function in the light of their religious activities.
 A cultural function was also held with the participation of tribal artistes.

240 acres of land brought under rubber plantation

BANDARBAN, July 18: Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board has brought some 240 acres of land under rubber plantation programme in the district to rehabilitate landless Jhumia families, reports UNB.
 According to the official sources, lands have been allocated for 500 Jhumia families in 10 villages of Rajvilla and Kuholing unions in sadar thana for horticulture and rubber gardening. Besides, rubber plantation on 1,760 acres of land under the project has already been completed.
 After seven years of plantation, the rehabilitated Jhumia families will get 80 per cent of the total interest money while the government will get 20 per cent as management cost. It added.
 Under the project, the rehabilitated people will be facilitated by improved road communication system, education, health, shrine and club.

More people condole death of Akhil Das

From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, July 18: The death of Akhil Kumar Das, 32, Headmaster of Masalia Junior Girls' High School in Sripur thana was condoled at another meeting held in the school premises on June 27.
 Md Nuruzzaman Khan, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Magura was the chief guest while Md Majid Mollah, local chairman of Goyespur Union Parishad presided over.
 RC Mondol, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Abu Bakar Siddik, ADC, Ashok Kumar Biswas, RDC, Magura, Md Altaf Hossain, General Secretary, local unit of Awami League, Abu Naser Bablu, organising secretary, Advocate Dipak Roy Chowdhury, journalist Rostam Ali Advocate Ali Akter Dukhu spoke on the occasion.
 Md Nuruzzaman Khan, DC, Magura, gave Uttara Rani Das, widow of Akhil Kumar Das Taka three thousand as help and assured her of justice and punishment to the murderers.

Timbers worth Tk 10cr being rotten in forest of Bandarban

BANDARBAN, July 18: A huge stockpile of timbers worth about Tk 10 crores are being rotten in deep forest of the district as those could not be taken out due to a government ban on transportation, reports UNB.
 Owners of the timbers alleged that they cannot take out the timbers logged from their own lands in the forest due to the restriction imposed two months back.
 "It's very unfair not to allow us to log and sell our own trees for which we had invested a lot of money," said an owner preferring anonymity.

He said: It's our main profession to procure timbers and sell those. Most people of the region, including the tribesmen, earn their bread and butter by selling timbers for lack of arable lands and industrial activities.
 An official source said the total cultivable land of the district is only three per cent.
 The timber owners said the ban on transportation of timber will also hamper tree plantation in the forest which ultimately may lead to ecological imbalance.

They said when the government is discouraging jhum cultivation in a bid to check environmental degradation, this ban has, in fact, opened up the prospect of widespread jhum cultivation.
 The owners have urged the government to allow them to transport out timbers in a limited scale, at least those which have already been cut down.
 They hoped that if the ban is relaxed it will help stop the smuggling of timbers and boost the government's revenue earning.

Arsenic detected in many tubewells in Khulna division

From Our Correspondent
KUSHIA, July 18: Presence of arsenic in almost all the hand tubewells in Khulna Division.
 Arsenic has been detected in water of 1,213 tube wells out of 1,788 tubewells. The tubewells have been examined so far in Khulna division, according to official sources.
 At least 67.84 per cent tubewells have been affected with arsenic contamination. It has posed as a health hazard of the people of the Khulna division. Out of 1,213 arsenic affected tubewells, 838 tubewells have been marked as dangerous and its percentage in 68.7.

The authorities concerned said, zero point zero five milligram arsenic in a litre of water is acceptable, but if its quantity is more than that it is unfit for human consumption.
 In Khulna district 393 tubewells have been examined and presence of arsenic in 199 tubewells have been detected. Water of 126 tubewells have been found dangerous.

In Bagerhat district 115 tubewells water have been examined and presence of arsenic was found in 79 tubewells. A total of 58 tubewells out of 79 have been declared dangerous.
 In Satkhira district arsenic contamination is very alarming. After examining 313 tubewells water of 258 tube wells have been found arsenic contamination in excess quantity.
 Presence of arsenic is 82.42 per cent in the existing tubewells. Out of those 190 tubewells have been declared dangerous.
 In Jessore district 389 tubewells have been examined. Arsenic was found in 257 tubewells. Out of them 185 tubewells have been declared unfit for taking water.
 In Narail district 82 tubewells have been examined and presence of arsenic was found in 61 tubewells. A total of 50 tubewells have been declared as unfit.

In Jhenidah district 64 tubewells have been examined. Presence of arsenic was found in 42 tubewells, out of which 27 tubewells have been declared unfit for use.
 In Magura presence of arsenic was found in 42 tubewells, out of which 35 tube-wells have been declared dangerous.
 In Kushtia 162 tubewells were examined and presence of arsenic was found in 105 tubewells. A total of 64 tubewells have been declared dangerous and unfit for use.
 In Chuadanga district 144 tubewells have been examined and presence of arsenic was found in 109 tubewells. A total of 68 tubewells have been declared unfit for use.
 In Meherpur 71 tubewells have been examined where presence of arsenic has been found in 61 tubewells. A total of 35 tubewells contained excessive quantity of arsenic and those are declared unfit for use.

2 train mishaps in Bonarpara-Santahar section within 15 hours

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, July 18: The second train mishap took place on July 15 at Salmara between Sonatola and Mohimaganj stations after 15 hours of the first incident.
 Locomotive power and a bogey of 19-up mail train were derailed at the same point in Bonarpara-Santahar section when railway track sagged due to flood water at 4 pm on July 15.
 The train communication remain disrupted for long hours. A similar mishap took place at the same point on Tuesday in which a passenger bogey of local train derailed. After 15 hours of restoring rail communication in this section another de rail accident took place.
 According to local people, flood water submerged the area and the soil under the track got loosen as the said track could not carry the load of train.

Dacoity incidents on rise in Khagrachhari

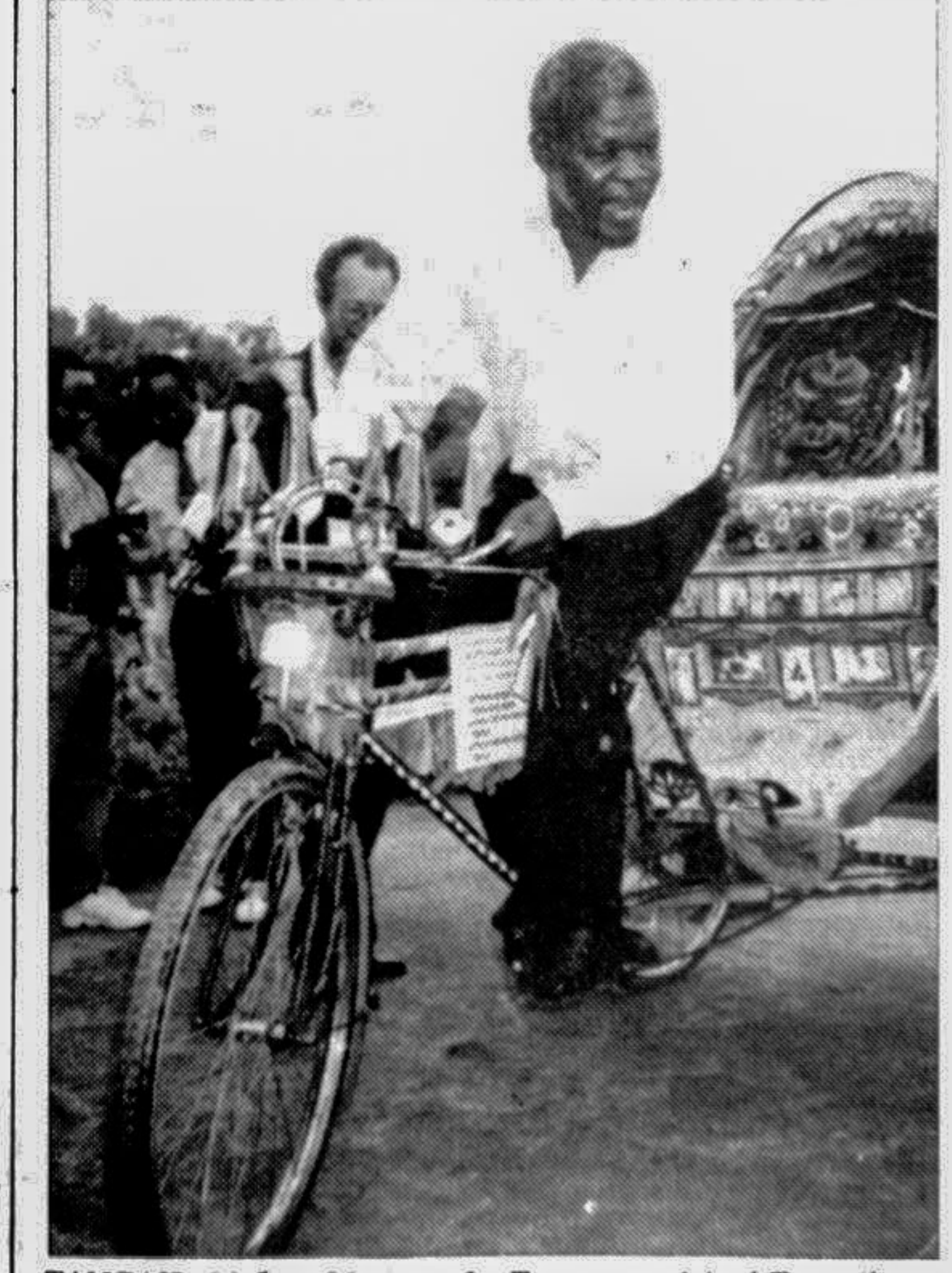
From Our Correspondent
KHAGRACHHARI, July 18: The incidents of dacoity, snatching and looting are on rise in the town and its adjoining areas due to the deterioration of law and order, reports UNB.
 Sources said such incidents have largely increased in the town or outskirts of the town during the last week.
 A total of 20 dacoity incidents were committed at Alutia area in the town during the period.
 The gang wearing masks committed a series of dacoity in the buses and trucks at Swarnivar and Narankhaia areas and decamped with valuables.
 The Poura Chairman Abul Kasem, sadar thana TNO Mohammad Hanif and Deputy Commissioner AKM Zafrul Hossain also expressed their concern over the increasing dacoities.
 Meanwhile, a meeting was held at the DC office on Thursday to discuss the current situation. The speakers suggested some measures to check the increasing menace.
 The Deputy Commissioner also emphasised on holding seminars and rallies to create mass awareness about terrorism in the Poura area.

Langulia boat tragedy leaves 1 dead

TANGAIL, July 18: A man was killed and another critically injured when two mechanised boats capsized in Langulia river in Basail thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.
 The victim was identified as Arkam Bhuiyan, 45.
 Police said the mishap occurred after the two boats collided in the river on their way to Kauljani from Basail.

'Extra Tourism Zone' to be built at Kuakata

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, July 18: Kuakata, the seashore resort along the Bay of Bengal in Patuakhali district is being turned into an attractive tourist spot for the tourists of home and abroad.
 The tourist resort was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 14.
 Now the government has undertaken a programme to build an Extra Tourism Zone (ETZ) here in the near future. The programme will be implemented by Bangladesh Parjaton Corporation (BPC), it is learnt.
 For a long time Kuakata remained obscure due to lack of attention of the government. But now BPC created a motel (holiday home). Various facilities are being offered to the tourists. The expenditure of Kuakata resort development project is Taka 1.38 crores.
 The 18-kilometre long Kuakata sea beach is very well-known and attractive to the tourists for its natural beauty. It is also attractive because from this place both the sunrise and sunset scenes are visible. The higher authorities, in the mean time, formed a committee headed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of Patuakhali as the convener for quick implementation of the construction work of ETZ at Kuakata.



TANGAIL: Mafawi Minister for Transport visited Tangail on July 17. Picture shows the minister paddling a rickshaw on the day.