

News snaps

Workshop on checking maternal mortality

**BANDARBAN, Sept 15:** A two-day workshop on checking maternal mortality and preserving their rights concluded here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Deputy Director of Health of Chittagong division while addressing the concluding function as chief disclosed that an Essential Service Package programme is underway in the country to ensure healthcare and check the maternal mortality. Some 6,000 rural health centres will be set up in the remote areas under the package programme to provide medicare facilities to the people, he said. Civil Surgeon Dr Ahmed Kabir presided over the workshop while Deputy Commissioner Atikul Islam Chowdhury attend as special guest. The DC said the district has no court for trial of the accused in women repression case and such cases are being sent to Chittagong for trial much to the sufferings of the party concerned.

3 children killed in road accident

**PABNA, Sept 15:** Three children died and six persons were injured in two road mishaps on Friday on Nagarbari-Bogra highway, reports BSS.

Eye witnesses said two children were killed on the spot and six persons injured when a minibus turned turtle at Sholomile. Six wounded persons were sent to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital for treatment. Another unidentified boy was run over by a speeding truck on the same day.

Minister reviews flood situation

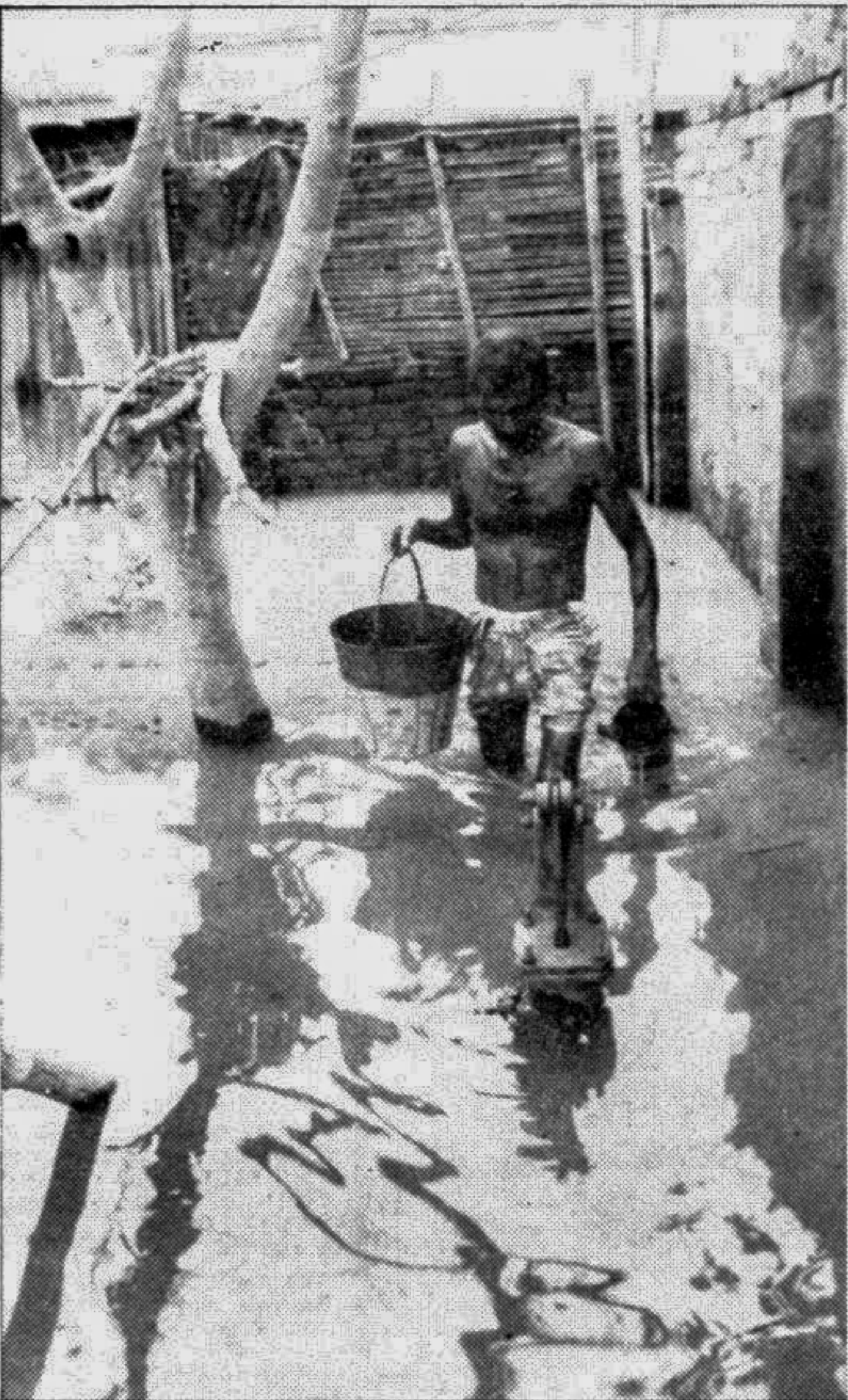
**KISHORGONJ, Sept 15:** LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zilur Rahman reviewed the overall relief activities and flood situation at Kuliarchar, Bhairab, Pakundia, Bajtipur, Dighirpar, Dulalpur, Jagannathpur, Kamalpur, Mokhtarpur, Itna, Mitamoin, Austogram and its adjoining areas during his visit here, reports BSS.

The LGRD minister distributed the relief goods including rice, pulse, oral saline, water purifying tablets, sarees, lungies, baby garments, dry foods and biscuits and primary health care medicines among the flood victims in those areas. The minister inaugurated a programme of making ruti and distributing ten thousands ruti (bread) among the flood victims daily in different flood shelters at the worst flood affected areas under the Bhairab thana.

200 bottles of phensidyl recovered

**NAOAGAN, Sept 15:** Police recovered 200 bottles of phensidyl and arrested two people in this connection here on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Nagen Majhi at village Gangoar in Sadar thana and recovered 200 bottles of Phensidyl from inside the two sacks. Police arrested Nagen, 60, and Ajit, 24, for possessing the contraband item. They were engaged in smuggling the phensidyl for a long time. A case was filed with the police.



**RAJSHAHI:** Acute scarcity of drinking water has become a serious problem in the flood affected areas. This photo was taken from Ramchandrapur under Rajshahi City Corporation. — Star photo

Workshop on adult literacy

**SATKHIRA, Sept. 15:** A workshop on adult literacy was held last week in Tala Thana Public Library under Satkhira district, reports BSS.

The workshop was inaugurated by Abdul Halm, Thana Nirbahali Officer, Tala. Presided over by Mahfuzur Rahman, Thana Education Officer, the inaugural function was addressed; among others, by Statistics Officer A K Chakravarty, Headmaster of Magura Girls High School, Moinul Hossain an assistant teacher of Satkhira Government Girls High School Abul Kashem. About 100 unemployed youths both male and female participated in the workshop.

3 including one woman commit suicide

**JHENIDAH, Sept 15:** Three persons including one woman allegedly committed suicide in sadar and Moheshpur thana of the district recently, reports BSS.

Police sources said, Ram Prasad, 21, of village Kalechoranpur, Shamima, 18, of village Surat under sadar thana and Momen, 45, of village Shamonta under Moheshpur thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison. Three unnatural death cases were recorded with sadar and Moheshpur police stations.

Drug-addicts handed over to police

**THAKURGAON, Sept 15:** The heads of five drug-addicts were shaved by a group of young people of the town. They were paraded on the streets of the town. Later, the drug-addicts were handed over to the police, reports BSS.

It was learnt that a group of young people of the town raided the houses of the drug-addicts and drug sellers of Islambag and Hallpara areas of the town recently and caught Murad, Babla, Manik, Muktar and Shahadeb and recovered 73 bottles of phensidyl, 500 gms of ganja and some heroine from their houses.

Drugs recovered

**SYLHET, Sept 15:** Narcotics Control Department here recovered drugs worth about Tk 10 lakh during the last eight months, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the drugs including finished hemp, hemp plants, foreign and country made wine, spirit, alcohol, phensidyl were recovered in separate drives. During the period 243 people were arrested and 240 cases were filed with the police in this connection.

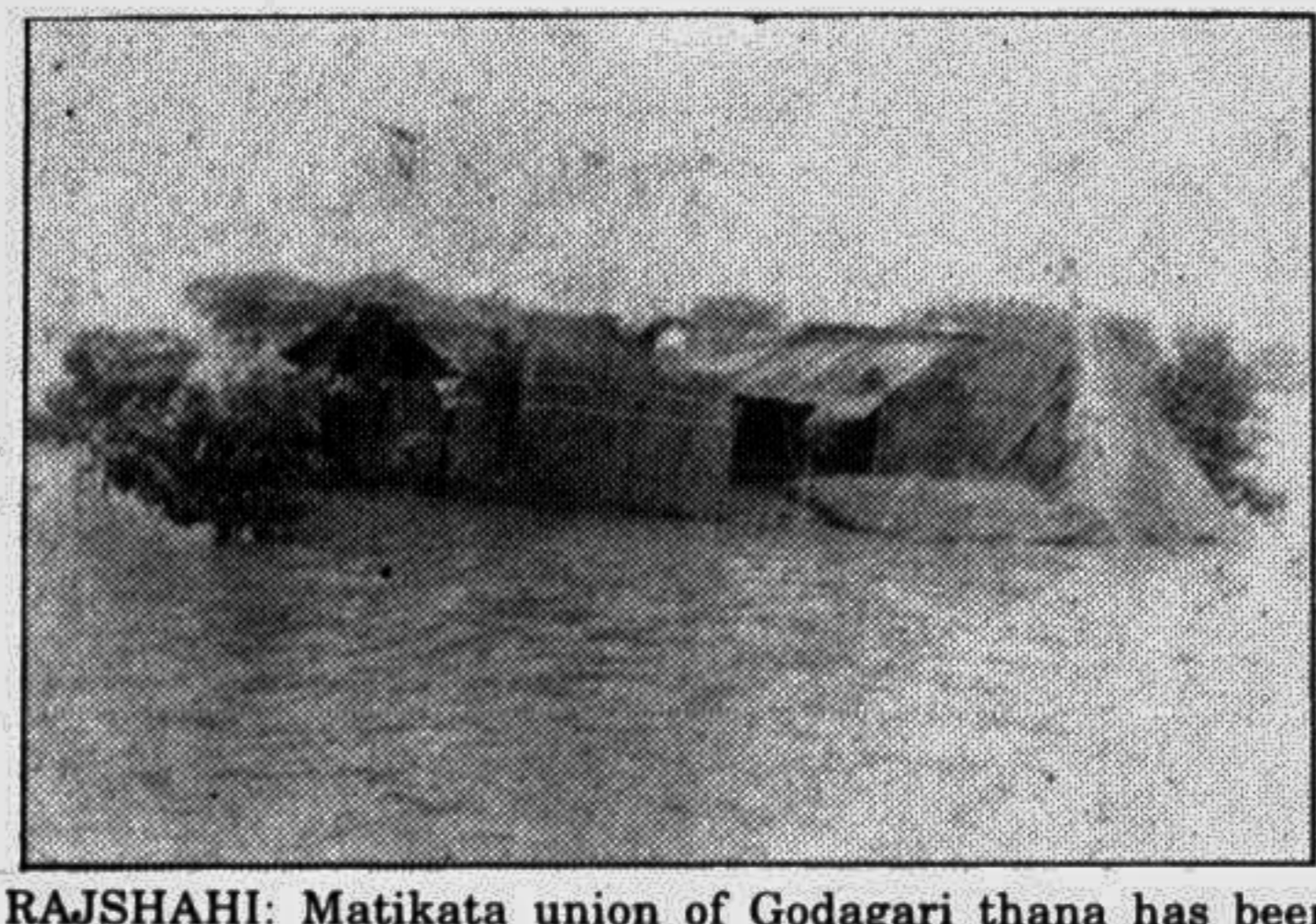
Town Community Police starts functioning

**SHERPUR, Sept 15:** The Town Community Police has started its functioning here from this month side by side the police for maintaining law and order in the municipal area, reports UNB.

The community policemen are performing their duties from 8 pm to 6 am every night. President of the District Chamber of Commerce Mohammad Masud Mia inaugurated the Community Police at a simple function on September 1. The community police has been introduced under the supervision of the District Chamber of Commerce and Industry with active support from the police.



**PABNA:** A submerged thatched house within Chatmohar Poursabha. — Star photo



**RAJSHAHI:** Matikata union of Godagari thana has been inundated totally by flood water. This photograph was taken from village Ujanpur on September 11. — Star Photo

Allotted relief too meagre for 10,05,489 flood victims of Pabna district

From Ranesh Maitra

**PABNA, Sept 15:** The relief materials allotted by the government for the district till Sunday is extremely meagre for a total number of 10,05,489 persons affected by the century's worst flood in all the nine thanas.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, according to the District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Pabna, has sanctioned 1,425 metric tons of rice, Tk 30,50,000 as GR money, saree-11,200 pieces, lungi-7,400 pieces, old garments 14 bags, biscuits-200 tons, polythin-40 rolls and plate-100 pieces.

The thana-wise distribution which has been done by the local administration also appears to be not impartial.

According to the official sources, for 1,95,015 persons from 20,323 affected families of Santhia thana, GR money of Tk 12,10,000 and 193 metric tons of rice have been allotted. For 2,43,028 persons from 21,124 affected families, only GR cash money of Tk 1,25,000 and GR rice of 103 metric tons have been sanctioned.

Similarly, for 2,08,897 persons of 35,309 affected families of Bera thana, GR cash money of Tk 7,40,000 and GR rice of 225 metric tons have been allotted.

Again, for 1,55,460 persons of 37,340 affected families of Pabna sadar thana, the local administration has so far sanctioned a total of Tk 2,30,000 only as GR cash money and 137 metric tons of rice.

In the same way, for 84,444 persons of 16,396 affected families of Faridpur thana, the total allotment made so far, stands only at Tk 1,33,000 as GR cash money and 150 metric tons of GR rice as relief.

For 98,202 persons from 16,367 affected families of Ishurdi thana, the local administration made an allotment of only Tk 1,70,000 as GR cash money and 137 metric tons of GR rice so far.

For Chatmohar thana, it is officially gathered, GR cash money of Tk 1,90,000 and 150 metric tons of GR rice have been allotted.

For Agharia thana, however, where a total of 27,235 persons from 5,957 families have been affected, the administration has allotted a total amount of Tk 71,000 as GR cash money and 60 metric tons of GR rice.

When asked, a Food Department official told this correspondent on Saturday, they have got a reserve stock of 12,600 metric tons of rice and 2,000 metric tons of wheat in different government godowns of the district. According to him, this would cover the food requirement of about 22,00,000 rural areas to live in the towns for their safety.

The districts include Jessore, Khulna, Narail, Jhenidah, Magura, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Satkhira and Bagerhat.

Outlaws kill 2,000 in 10 years in S-W region

**JESSORE, Sept 15:** About 2,000 people have been killed in the south-western region of the country by the activists of outlawed parties during the last 10 years, reports UNB.

Some 60 people including the Editor of the Daily Runner Saiful Alam Mukul were killed by the miscreants during the first eight months of this year.

Officials of the law enforcement agencies said most of the killing incidents occurred during armed clashes between various rival factions and rival groups in the remote areas of the region.

They said local people become victims of the armed groups as they face demand for money as subscription of the party or ransom for the abducted men.

People in 10 south-western districts said they have virtually become hostage at the hands of these outlawed parties and are facing insecurity.



**JESSORE:** People of all walks of life paraded the main thoroughfares of the district town recently and demanded punishment to the killers of Saiful Alam Mukul, Editor of The Runner, a local daily. — Star photo

Three kilometres of roads were completely damaged and 130 kilometers more were partially damaged, one bridge was completely damaged and eight bridges were partially damaged, nine religious institutions were completely damaged and 172 others were partially destroyed. A total of 60 flood shelters were opened where 49,100 persons were staying.

In Pabna Sadar thana 37,340 families with 1,55,460 members were affected, seven persons and 210 cattle died, 67 persons were injured, 14,670 houses were completely damaged and 31,260 houses completely damaged and 31,260 houses were partially damaged.

Standing crops on over 29,370 acres of land were fully destroyed and on 21,830 acres of land partially damaged, 175 kilometres of road were partially damaged, 12 embankments were damaged. Eight bridges were completely damaged, while 20 bridges and culverts were partially damaged, 25 religious institutions were completely damaged and 260 others were partially destroyed. Five flood shelters were opened and 8,500 took shelter there.

In Faridpur thana, 16,316 families with 84,444 persons were affected, two cattle died, 3,881 houses were completely damaged and 4,406 houses were partially damaged. Standing crops on over 702 acres of land were completely destroyed and crops on 1203 acres of land were partially damaged. A total of 80 roads were partially damaged, three embankments were completely destroyed and 22 others were partly destroyed, one bridge was completely damaged and three others were partly damaged. Three religious institutions were completely destroyed and 9 others were partly destroyed. A total of 17 flood shelters were opened where 13,014 persons took shelter.

In Bhangoor thana, 8,420 families with 42,100 members were affected, 37 cattle died, 1,084 houses were completely destroyed, 3,777 houses were partially damaged, standing crops on over 662 acres were completely damaged, while crops on over 2,947 acres partly damaged. A total of 98 roads were completely damaged and 110 were partially damaged, 12 embankments were partly destroyed, five bridges were completely damaged and 23 others were partly destroyed. Ten religious institutions were completely damaged and 71 others were partly damaged. Six flood shelters were opened where 637 persons took shelter.

In Ishurdi thana, 16,367 families with 98,202 members were affected, 4,041 cattle died, 457 houses were completely damaged and 9,752 others were partially destroyed, standing crops on over 6,202 acres were completely destroyed, 20 roads were completely damaged and 35 roads were partly damaged, one religious institutions were destroyed, nine flood-shelters were opened and 3,095 persons were given shelter.

In Chatmohar thana, 20,525 families with 1,21,100 persons were affected, 6,300 houses were completely damaged and 13,450 houses were partially destroyed, standing crops on over 9,467 acres of land were partially damaged, 25 roads were completely destroyed and 142 others were partially destroyed. Three religious institutions were destroyed completely, while 120 others were partially damaged, six flood shelters were opened where 1,680 persons took shelter there.

In Santhia thana, 21,124 families and 1,73,028 persons were affected, 1,000 cattle died, 150 houses were completely damaged and 8,600 others were partially damaged, 34 roads were completely damaged and 208 others were partially destroyed, eight bridges were completely damaged and 39 others were partly damaged. A total of 68 religious institutions were partly destroyed.

In Agharia thana, 5,957 families with 27,235 persons were affected, 1,300 houses were completely damaged and 4,685 others were partially destroyed, standing crops on over 4,735 acres were completely damaged and over 9,025 acres were partially damaged, 21 roads were completely damaged and 92 roads were partially damaged, two bridges and culverts were fully damaged and 31 religious institutions were partially damaged.

In total, 1,81,691 families with 10,05,489 persons were affected, 20 persons died and 67 injured, 5,302 cattle died, 59,060 houses were completely damaged and 14,228 houses were partially destroyed. Standing crops on over 57,501 acres of land were completely damaged and standing crops on over 67,857 acres of land were partially destroyed, 475 roads were completely damaged and 1,196 roads were partially damaged, 4 embankments were completely damaged and 51 embankments were partially destroyed, 33 bridges were completely damaged and 101 bridges partially damaged, 62 religious institutions were completely damaged and 795 religious institutions were partially destroyed, 107 flood centres were opened and a total number of 82,556 men, women and children took shelter.

In July 1995, eight villagers were slaughtered by these outlawed parties at Kullbila village in Meherpur district.

Local people alleged that a section of powerful politicians are patronising the outlawed parties for ensuring their help during coming elections.

They urged the authorities concerned to take stern action against the outlawed parties to ensure their security of the life and property.

**One killed, 4 hurt in road accident**  
**From Our Correspondent**

**KUSHTIA Sept 15:** One person was killed and 4 others were seriously injured when a Sirajganj bound bus from Khulna lost control and fell upside down at the 4th mile point of Kushtia-Ishurdi Road on Thursday noon.

The dead was identified as Habibur Rahman, 50, of Khulna. The injured are Latif, 35, Alhaz Abdus Samad, 38, Khalilur Rahman, 25, and his mother whose name could not be known. All are from Khulna. They have been admitted in Kushtia General Hospital. Police seized the bus and a case has been registered with Kushtia police station. The driver and helper are absconding.

**Viral fever in Narail**  
**NARAIL, Sept 15:** Viral fever has broken out in different parts of the district particularly in the rural areas in an alarming proportion, reports UNB.

The disease is spreading fast causing concern among the people. High temperature accompanied with spasmodic pain and stifling headache are some of the symptoms of this fever, according to physicians.

Relief drives in dists

**NARSINGDI, Sept 15:** Different political parties and non-government voluntary organisations have been continuing their relief operations among the flood victims in Narsingdi district, reports BSS.

**Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Narsingdi unit** has been distributing dry food and drinking water among the flood victims in Narsingdi Poursabha area.

Gopinath Sangsad, Narsingdi on Thursday distributed relief goods among the distressed of Hajpur union.

Chemist and Druggist Association, Narsingdi has been distributing medicines among 10,000 people who took shelter at different schools in the town.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Narsingdi district unit distributed relief goods among the flood victims in six thanas of the district.

Desh Seva Sangstha and Raipura-Belabo Muslim Bengal Jano Sangstha also distributed relief goods among the flood victims of Raipura and Belabo thanas.

Mauchak Maulik Chahida Karmasuchi, a national NGO distributed five tonnes dry food among the flood victims in different shelters of the district. Mauchak also distributed water purifying tablets.

Different political parties including Narsingdi district BNP city Chhatra Dal cooked food, dry food and medicines among the flood victims. Islami Chhatra Jote also distributed rice and dal among the distressed.

Meanwhile, CARE will provide emergency provisions to 250,000 families in the affected districts of Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Manikgonj and Madaripur. Initially, the families will receive a two-week food ration comprising of rice, lentils and salt, according to a press release.

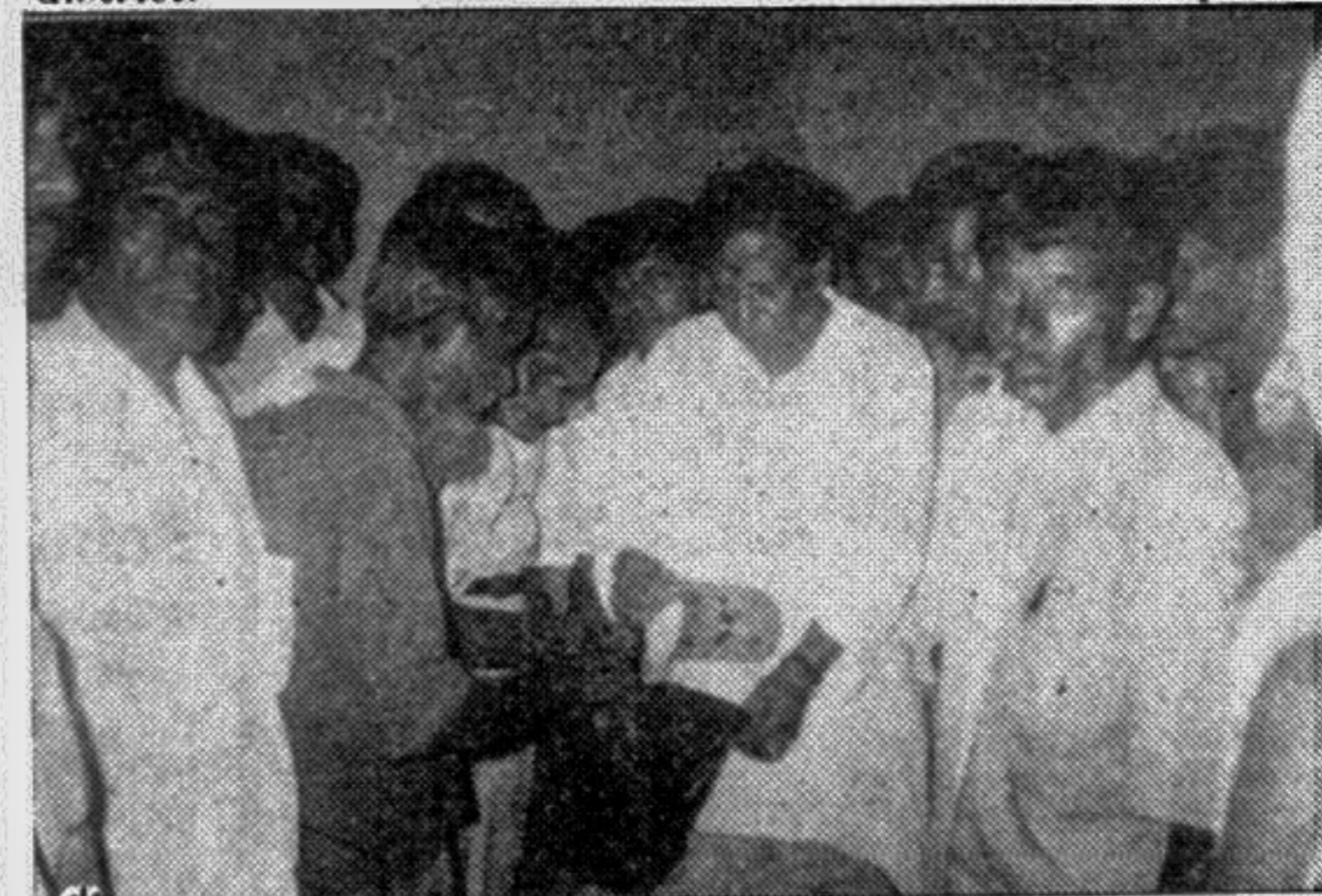
CARE will set up 120 health and nutrition centers in the same districts from October 1, 1998. These CHAN (CARE Health and Nutrition) centers will provide cooked food to pregnant women, mothers and children under 5. They will also carry home a supplementary food ration for the rest of the family. This activity will be conducted for a period of one month. Throughout the entire period these flood affected people will have access to health services and health counseling.

The cost of implementation is being borne by USAID. The cost of medical supplies will be covered by CIDA.

CARE has mobilised about 900 of its staff to execute the flood response activities.



**PABNA:** Anjan Chowdhury, Managing Director, Square Toiletries Ltd recently distributed relief materials among the flood victims of Bera thana. — Star photo



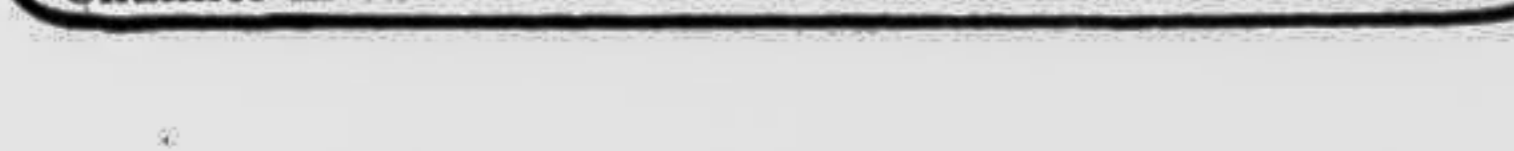
**RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY:** The Public Administration Department of the university recently distributed relief goods among the flood affected people of Chapainawabganj district. — Star photo



**BRAHMANBARIA:** Advocate Abdul Latif, MP, recently distributed relief items among the flood-hit people of Borikandi union in Nabinagar thana. — Star photo



**SHERPUR:** The Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka on Wednesday distributed relief goods among the flood-hit people of Char Pukhkhary union in the sadar thana. — Star photo



**FARIDPUR:** A F M Abdul Huq Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur distributed relief materials recently among the flood affected people of North Channel in the sadar thana. — Star photo