

## News snaps

### 22 injured in road accident

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 26: Twenty-two persons were injured when a overloaded bus fell into a roadside ditch after losing its control on Bheramara-Raita road at Arkandi village on Friday last. Passengers said the bus was driven by its helper Abdul Aziz who lost control when giving side to a van. Of the injured, 12 were admitted in Kushtia General Hospital and Bheramara Health Complex. Seriously injured are Niaz, Hamida Begum, Kafeer Sardar, Moksed, Mozaffar, Moslem, Sabuz and Akil. Police have seized the bus.

### Massive Aman farming scheme

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 26: A total of 4,800 hectares of land will be brought under broadcasting 'Aman' cultivation in all the four thanas here during the current Broadcasting Aman cultivation season.

According to an official source, of the total land 950 hectares will be brought under its cultivation in Chuadanga thana, 1,650 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 700 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 1,500 hectares in Jibannagar thana. The production target of Broadcasting Aman paddy in the district during the current season has been fixed at 7,200 metric tons.

### Ansar, VDP confce in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, May 26: The annual conference of the district unit of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP was held at Kabi Jasmuddin Hall recently.

Colonel Md Golam Mostafa, Director of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP attended the conference as chief guest while Md Shamsul Haq, Deputy Director of Ansar and VDP of Dhaka Range was the special guest on the occasion.

Md Ala, Ansar-VDP group leader of Katjuri union and Farida Parvin, group leader of Krishnanagar union read out the papers projecting their achievements and problems of their respective union at the conference chaired by Md Farhaduddin ADC (General).

### Shortage of English teachers in schools

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 26: Secondary education in all the seven thanas here is being hampered seriously for want of experienced English teachers for a quite long time.

About 100 secondary educational institutions here have been facing shortage of English teachers causing untold sufferings to the students. Finding no other alternative the school authorities engaged teachers of other subjects of teach English. Local guardians informed that most of the so-called English teachers have no command on the subject.

### Fries on sale in Netrakona markets

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, May 26: Current nets are on open sell in the local markets despite a government ban, local fishermen said.

Members of the law enforcing agencies are yet to take positive steps to stop the illegal practice of fishing fries. Sale of fish measuring less than nine inches is going on unabated in the markets. The local elite have suggested to set up mobile courts to punish the persons responsible for violating government ban on the use of current nets and fishing fries.

### Boy crushed under wheels of bus

From A Correspondent

MAGURA May 26: An eight-year-old boy was killed recently in a road accident here. Rassel, 8, is the son of Showkat Hossain of Bhaina in Magura pourasabha area. He was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Magura-Jessore road. After the accident the driver fled away with his bus. Police sources said, the ill-fated boy was playing in front of their house beside the road when the accident occurred. The bus was allegedly overtaking another bus at that time.

### Kaliganj thana JP confce

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 26: The biennial conference of Kaliganj thana Jatiya Party (JP) was held at the auditorium of Mahila College here recently with Latifur Rahman Khan in the chair.

Advocate Abdur Rahim was present as the chief guest, while Advocate S M Salah Uddin, Advocate Abdur Rouf, Abdus Sattar and Ashrafuzzaman were present as special guests. A 71-member committee of Kaliganj thana JP was formed headed by Latifur Rahman as president and Mahbubur Rahman as general secretary respectively.

### Best DC adjudged

MAGURA, May 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) of the district has been adjudged as the best DC for his laudable role in eradicating illiteracy under non-formal education programme, reports UNB.

Government has taken the decision in favour of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nuruzzaman Khan for his relentless efforts for eradicating the curse of illiteracy from the district under the 'Bikshito Magura' scheme and playing important role in implementing the non-formal education programme.

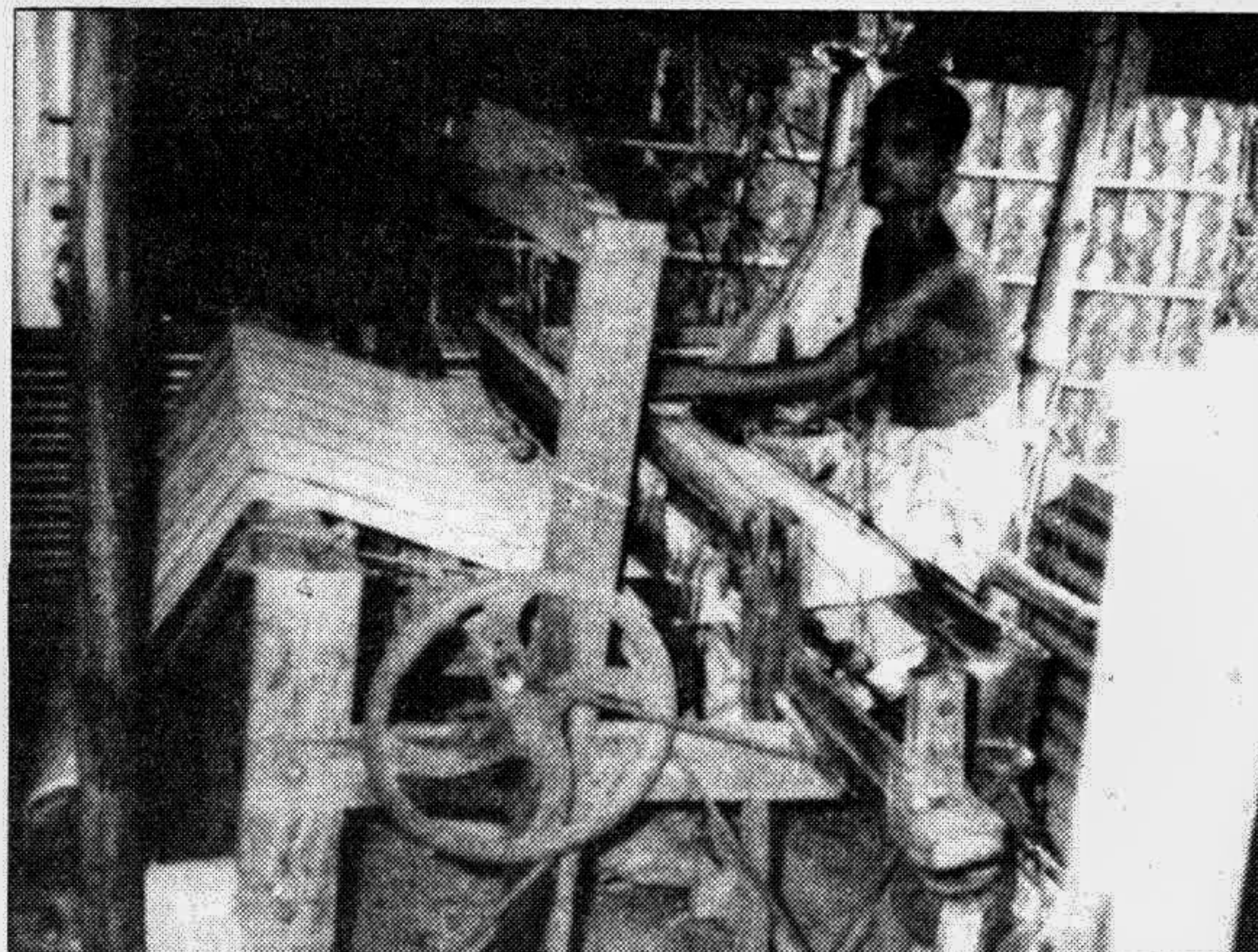
### Sanitation fair concludes

NETRAKONA, May 26: A two-day sanitation fair -99 concluded here at Kalkamanda Pilot High School premises in Kalkamanda thana, reports BSS.

Kalkamanda Thana Engineering Department and UNICEF jointly sponsored the fair aiming at creating awareness among the people about the modern sanitation system. Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) Matur Rahman Khan inaugurated the fair. Over a dozen of well-decorated stalls with different sanitation equipments were on at the fair.

# Over 42,000 handloom factories of greater Pabna remain idle

From Ranesh Maitra



A weaver working at a small handloom factory in Santhia thana.

—Star photo

PABNA, May 26: Over 42,000 handloom factories in greater Pabna district have remained idle due to absence of proper national policy.

As a result the national economy has been suffering. Dependence on foreign cloth has been increasing. Over 1,30,000 handloom weavers and owners have become unemployed.

The jobless workers are in misery. Their families are also facing an uncertain future.

This has been revealed recently in a survey conducted by a non-governmental organisation.

The handlooms are situated in Kushtia, Sirajganj and Pabna.

Out of 3,00,000 weavers, over 77,000 have remained idle.

The situation arises due to non-availability of raw materials, financial constraints absence of marketing facilities and lack of government protection to this industry.

The report further says that 42,000 more looms had gone idle due to poor economic condition, natural calamities like flood and drought.

A total of 5,75,00,000 yards of clothes were produced annually earlier, but at present the production is only 3,45,00,000 yards.

A total of 215 looms out of 600 in Faridpur thana, 1,154 looms out of 4,038 looms in Bera thana, 1,912 looms out of 4,480 in Santhia thana, 1,060 looms out of 2,941 in Sujannagar thana, 250 out of 650 looms in Chatmohar thana, 660 out of 1,400 looms in Agharia thana, 135 out of 930 looms in Ishardi thana, 125 out of 230 looms in Bhangoorah thana, 2,700 out of 3,650 looms in Pabna Sadar thana, 8,181 out of 27,000 looms in Belkuchi thana, 7,710 out of 16,000 looms in Ullapara thana, 500 out of 1,240 looms in Kamarkhandha thana, 7,300 out of 24,500 looms in Sirajganj Sadar thana, 180 out of 575 looms in Kaziur thana, 2,600 out of 6,025 looms in Chouhali thana and 1,000 out of 24,475 looms in Shahadpur thana have already been closed down. Meanwhile, the owners of

the handloom factories were given a loan at the rate of Taka 5,000 to Taka 6,000 per loom by the then government in the eighties with the declared objective of rehabilitating and developing the neglected handloom industries.

But thousands of fake handloom owners, having no loom at all, were given the loan.

A section of dishonest bank managers and other officials played a collusive role then, it is further alleged.

The purpose for which crores of taka were sanctioned and disbursed, was ultimately frustrated. Most of the loanees did not repay the loan amount till today. Very few number of loanees, however, repaid their loans.

Thousands of cases were

filed by various banks for recovering their dues. A large number of warrants have also been issued against the defaulters. The defaulters and the handloom owners have been faced with untold harassments now.

Mofazzal Hossain, a leader of the Weavers' Association of Pabna, told The Daily Star that the government and the concerned banks should now withdraw all the cases, stop harassments to the weavers. Mofazzal Hossain demanded of the government to provide the handloom owners with raw materials at a competitive price, ensure marketing facilities for the products and issue fresh loans to genuine handloom weavers for boosting and developing the handloom industry.

## Deep Tubewell Project benefits 75,000 Dinajpur farmers

PANCHAGARH, May 26: Farmers of greater Dinajpur district have become enchanted with the resumption of the 'North Bangladesh Deep Tubewell Project', reports UNB.

The irrigation project, covering Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Panchagarh districts, had been abandoned since last 15 years due to lack of proper management.

Almost all the tube-wells, out of 1,217 under the project, remained inoperative bringing down its capacity to provide irrigation facilities on 700 acres of land instead of 56,000 hectares.

Renovation works of the project, with an estimated cost of Tk 185 crore, were also hampered due to negligence and irregularities of a section of officials as well as conspiracy of a vested quarter, it is alleged.

The concerned authorities could not rectify Tk 12 crore as irrigation tax from various 'samities' and Tk 3 crore as electricity bills.

To boost production, the present government has taken a decision to restart the project in the area to recoup losses caused by the last devastating flood.

The work of the project resumed following directives issued by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to repair faulty tube-wells for providing irrigation facilities to the farmers.

Thousands of farmers were getting irrigation facilities af-

ter inauguration of the project at Kachubari in Sadar thana of Thakurgaon district by the Prime Minister on February 14 this year.

Considering the interests of

### Novel way of selling heroin !

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, May 26: Empty match boxes filled with so-called 'heroin' are being sold at Nutan bazaar here now-a-days.

The local heroin addicts have named 'heroin' as 'hero'. A heroin seller of Nutan bazaar has adopted the technique of selling heroin in such a novel way. He sells heroin in disguise of selling match.

The heroin seller and his accomplices pack heroin in small packets. Then they fill up an empty match box with five small packets of heroin. Afterwards he sells the same to the addicts at the rate of Taka 750 per box. It is also alleged, at the time of packing they also mix the iron pills used for family planning purpose. The iron pills are similar to heroin in colour. The addicts are also being deceived this way.

The members of law enforcing agencies are unable to check such open sale of drug.

the farmers and boosting of overall production, the government exempted the farmers of paying irrigation taxes.

About 75,000 farmers under the project have been facilitated, as they have to pay now only Tk 600-700 yearly to cultivate an acre land instead of paying Tk 1400 earlier.

When contacted, director of the project said, a total of 1,146 tube-wells out of 1,217 would be operative after the renovation work.

It was not even possible to operate 12 deep tube-wells installed at Panchagarh and Tetulia thana as these were operated by diesel.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,000 tube-wells out of 1,146 have been renovated and the rest will be repaired by this month.

Besides, some 59 tube-wells, which went inoperative almost permanently, would be re-installed by the next year.

About 20,000 hectares of land have been brought under irrigation facilities in the current season, the sources said.

Local farmers alleged that irrigation network is being hampered seriously due to the theft of the transformers, motor, starter and electric wires by a section of dishonest people. Erratic power supply also hampers the irrigation, they added.

The project will help produce additional 1.10 lakh mts of rice and point 90 lakh mts of wheat annually, it was learnt.

## Alleged corruptions in a madrassa

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, May 26: The superintendent of a madrassa here has allegedly been collecting money illegally in the name of development.

Moulana Sultan Ahmed, Superintendent of Koncherkole Islami Senior madrassa is doing so by allegedly printing false and duplicate receipt books.

Thousands of taka were allegedly defalcated against the building head for electricity, Hezfa Khana, teachers and students, but no register was maintained by the madrassa authority. The superintendent has allegedly shown an amount of Taka 1,700 in the name of bribe (Voucher no 82).

He has allegedly appointed an English teacher and a class four employee (Male) ignoring the governing body in 1997.

Over Taka one lakh have allegedly been defalcated against the 'Lillah Boarding' of the madrassa. Food and lodging are supplied to only 13 students and the rest 20 students manage their food through mess system, but the super allegedly collects rice and other items for about 250 residential students of the Lillah Boarding.

The super has allegedly enrolled the name of some Islamic University students in Degree class violating the government rules. It has sparked tension among the guardians well as some executive committee (EC) members.

Some EC members alleged, the Superintendent did not try to get recognised the Hefzokhana (for Hafez course) from the Board of Madrassa Education, Dhaka though the Hefzokhana was established from the very beginning of establishment of the madrassa.

The Secretary allegedly call meetings without the consent of Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) who is the chairman of the committee. But no notice book is maintained.

Usually no teacher cannot be an examiner without an experience for at least five years. But the superintendent has allegedly submitted informations for two teachers who are experienced for not more than three years.

According to allegations, the super has allegedly defalcated the stipend money of some students in 1984 and 1986.

When tried the superintendent could not be contacted. However, Jamil Rashid, Secretary of Kancherkole Islami Senior Madrassah and Dr Shahidur Rahman, Vice Chairman of the committee denied the allegations. They said that a vested quarter had been involved in damaging the credibility of the madrassa.

When contacted Golam Mortuza, TNO, Salkupa and Chairman of Kancherkole Islami Senior Madrassa said

that he had received a copy of allegations against the superintendent. He would look into the matter immediately, he added.

### Alleged dacoit killed in mass beating

CHITTAGONG, May 26: An alleged dacoit was killed and another critically injured in mass beating in the city's Phartoli rice wholesale market early on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said local people laid siege to a gang of dacoits, caught and beat two of them while they were trying to loot a rice-shop at the market on Monday midnight.

Of them, an unidentified man aged about 30 died on the spot while another Mohammad Ismail suffered severe injuries. The injured was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The other members of the gang fled the scene with a microbus under cover of bomb blasts and gunshots. Meanwhile, four policemen, including SI Mizan of Pahartoli thana, were injured as angry people attacked them while they went to rescue the dacoits from mass beating. They were admitted to CMCH.

### Reception

By staff Correspondent

Barisal district administration has recently accorded a reception to father of Barisal Oxford Mission Church Francis Arunesh Pande for his heroic role in the War of Liberation in 1971.

Pande directly joined in the liberation war under Sector No 9 and fought against the Pakistani occupation forces. Some 75,000 peace loving people laid down their lives for the independence of Bangladesh during the liberation war under this sector.

Deputy Commissioner of Barisal Mohammad Alauddin handed over a citation to Pande at a simple ceremony held at local Muktiyoddha Sangsad auditorium.

### PP of Satkhira Judge's Court terminated

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 26: Advocate Abu Bakar Siddique, Public Prosecutor (PP) of Satkhira Judge's Court has been terminated recently from his post on charge of misconduct and corruption.

After getting allegations against the PP from different organisations and individuals. The Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, terminated him from his post.

APP Mahmud Hasan has been given the charge of PP temporarily.

### Methanol spirit seized: Three traders held in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, May 26: Police on Monday seized 450 litre methanol spirit procured illegally and held three traders from the town, reports UNB.

The seized methanol looks like rectified spirit, said Narcotics Inspector Abdul Latif.

The drive against spirit and home made alcohol was launched jointly by Narcotics Control and police on the heels of Narsingdi disaster in which some 120 people died after taking poisonous this week.

Worried at the reports of large scale smuggling of phenisdy and home made liquor (chola mad) from across the border, the administration on Monday went into action, officials said.

Those arrested are Fariduddin of Farid & Sons, Mohammad Russel of Russel Traders and Abdul Khaleque of Khaleque & Sons from the town.

They all are hardware traders and dealing in harmful spirit without license.

Informed sources said rectified spirit, phenisdy, heroin, home made alcohol smuggled from neighbouring India and Bhutan were being sold at at least 200 clandestine places in five thana towns of the district. But many of the dealers went into hideouts and some shifted the hub following the Narsingdi incident.

Police officials in the drive against alcohol, drugs and addicts expressed hope that the dealers and manufacturers would be rounded up soon.



## Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB No. 22/98-99

Credit No. 2791-BD

Dated: 24-5-99

Credit Name : IDA

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of 1998 Flood Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds to cover eligible payments under Repair and Maintenance of regulators/sluices of Pigna-Jokerchar Project.

2. The Executive Engineer of Tangail O&M Division, BWDB, Tangail invites sealed bids for construction and completion of the following works. This invitation for bids is open to all bidders enlisted with Bangladesh Water Development Board. In addition foreign bidders are eligible to bid without this enlistment but if awarded contract would be required to enlist with Bangladesh Water Development Board. Furthermore, when enlistment is done at district level, Bangladeshi contractors enlisted with Bangladesh Water Development Board in other districts are also eligible to bid. Note that only 'C' category contractors are eligible for this work.

Sl No	Contract package No	Name of the works	Estimated cost (Taka)	Bid security (Taka)	Time for completion of work (days)
1	I	Repair & Maintenance of 1998 flood affected six regulators/sluices of Pigna-Jokerchar Project in Tangail district during the year 1998-99 under IDA Credit No. 2791-BD.	3,96,040/-	2.5 % of estimated cost (i.e. Tk 9901/- or 1% of estimated cost (i.e. Tk. 3960/- for FD holders	75 days

3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchase at the office of the :

- Deputy Commissioner, Tangail.
- Superintendent of Police, Tangail.
- Officer-in-Charge, Sadar Thana, Tangail.
- Manager, Sonali Bank, Main Branch, Tangail.
- Manager, Sonali Bank, Main Branch, Mymensingh.
- Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

On non-refundable fee of Taka 400/- (Tk. four hundred) only for each set during normal office hours on all working days, interested bidders may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

4. The provisions in the instructions to bidders and in the conditions of contract are the provisions of the standard bidding documents: Procurement of Works (SED), National Competitive Bidding (Trial Edition-January 1998, revised February 1999), issued by the World Bank, Dhaka office.

5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 15 days after the bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned in para 2 above.

6. Bids must be delivered to the offices of :

- The Deputy Comissioner, Tangail.
- The Superintendent of Police, Tangail.
- The Executive Engineer, Tangail O&M Division, BWDB, Tangail.

On or before 12-00 Noon of 28th June 1999.

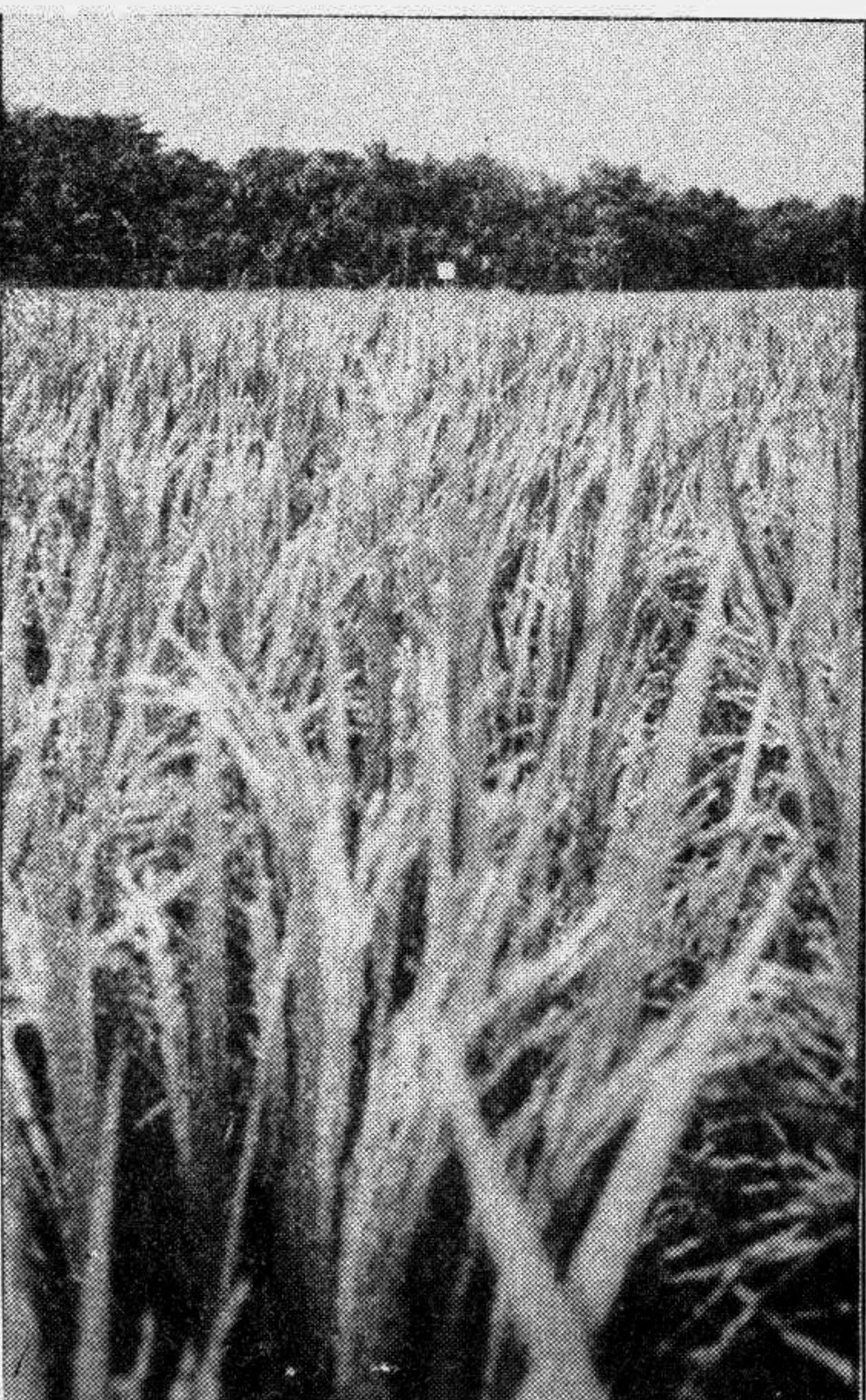
7. Bidders may deliver their bids by any means including courier services, registered mail with acknowledgment due, etc. which must reach the above office before the deadline for submission of bids. Bids received after the deadline for submission of bids will not be accepted.

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders representatives who chose to attend at 12-30 PM on 28th June '99 at the offices of:

- The Executive Engineer, Tangail O&M Division, BWDB, Tangail.

Executive Engineer  
Tangail O & M Division  
BWDB, Tangail.

PANI-493/98-99  
GD-442



FARIDPUR: Farmers of Kanaipara village in the sadar thana have achieved a grand success in cultivating Loknath-500, a High Yielding Variety (HYV) of paddy in this season. They have produced on average 100 to 105 maunds of paddy per acre of land.

— Star photo