

## News snaps

### Satkira Press Club EC meet

**From Our Correspondent**  
SATKHIRA, July 14: A meeting of the executive committee of Satkhir Press Club was held recently in the club with Subhas Chowdhury, President of the club, in the chair.  
The meeting was addressed, among others, by Mizanur Rahman, Manirul Islam Mini, Altaf Hossain, Anisur Rahim, Abdul Bari, Dilip Kumar Dev, Sk Abdul Wazed Kachi, Al-Mahmud Palash and Abdus Sattar.

### 221 criminal cases in six months

**From Our Correspondent**  
GAIBANDHA, July 14: A total of 221 criminal cases were filed with Gobindaganj thana during the last six months. Most of the cases are rape and women repression.  
A total of 41 criminal cases were filed with the thana in the last month. Of the cases 17 were of rape, 17 of repression on women, 11 of murder, 11 are of clash related and 163 other cases.

### Two pipeguns recovered

**From Our Correspondent**  
KISHOREGANJ, July 14: Two pipeguns and two rounds of bullets were recovered in village Dhiraail of Nikli thana recently.  
A police team led by ASI Moazzem Hossain Khan acting on a tip-off recovered the arms from a pond side bush.

### Body of teen recovered

**From Our Correspondent**  
FARIDPUR, July 14: Kotwali police recovered a dead body of a teenage boy from a jute field at village Tejurakandi in Kotwali thana recently.  
The victim was identified as Muzaffar, 15, son of late Hafizur Rahman of the village. Previous enmity is reported to be the cause of the murder. Some of his friends called him from his house on June 28, but he did not return since his departure from the house.

### Farzana wants to be a barrister

**From Our Correspondent**  
SATKHIRA, July 14: Farzana Mannan Barna of Chittagong Mohila Samity School secured the 16th position in the combined merit list of Humanities group in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination under Chittagong Board.  
She wants to take Bar-at-Law degree in future. She has obtained 791 marks with letter marks in Mathematics, Economics and Accounting. She is the daughter of Abdul Mannan, Assistant Police Super (ASP) of Satkira and Fatema Mannan.



### Palash Pourasabha budget

**NARSINGDI, July 14:** Palash Pourasabha has announced a budget of Taka 1,84,86, 196 for the year 1999-2000, reports BSS.  
Pourasabha administrator Shah Elias announced the budget recently at a meeting held at the pourasabha auditorium. Palash thana headquarters has been made a pourasabha in 1998.

### Classes suspended

**FARIDPUR, July 14:** Classes of Abdur Rouf Degree College at Kamarkhali remained suspended for the last few days following looting of cash at gun point and ransacking the college by a group of musclemen, reports UNB.  
The incident took place recently as the college authorities announced appointment of a lecturer who stood first in the interview. But Zakir Hossain Molla, a lecturer in another college and resident of Kamarkhali, who stood second in the interview mobilised musclemen who raided the college, looted the cash at gun point, ransacked it.

### Massive 'Aman' farming

**RANGPUR July 14:** A total of 10.44 lakh hectares of land in eight northern districts of Rangpur zone have been brought under 'aman' cultivation in the current season, fixing the output target at 19,76,700 mts, reports UNB.  
The districtwise break-up of lands is: Rangpur-1,43,090 hectares, Gaibandha-1,04,555, Kurigram-1,12,240, Lalmonirhat-93,570, Nilphamari-1,10,440, Dinajpur-2,49,160, Thakurgaon-1,20,910 and Panchagarh-1,09,170 hectares.

### Pry dropouts on rise

**JOYPURHAT, July 14:** When the government is striving to give a boost to its literacy programme, only 91 per cent children enrolled in primary schools of the district this year against the target of 95 per cent, reports UNB.  
Official sources said there are about 1,23,732 school going children in the district. Of them, 1,13,733 enrolled in various primary schools.

### Literacy drive in Pabna

**PABNA, July 14:** An ambitious literacy drive will be launched on July 15 in 19 thanas where nearly 40 per cent of the population has no knowledge of letter, reports UNB.  
The project, Pradipta Pabna, at a cost of about Tk 11.62 crore was aimed at imparting knowledge of writing and reading to all. A survey showed 7,50,659 people out of the total population of 19,19,896 in nine thanas are illiterate. In the first phase of the project, five thanas are being taken up to educate 3,90,624 men and women. The thanas are: Pabna Sadar, Iswardi, Sujannagar, Bhangura and Faridpur.

### Uplift work progressing

**MADARIPUR, July 14:** The work on 469 rural infrastructure development projects taken up in the 1998-1999 fiscal year here is going on in full swing, an official source said, reports BSS.  
The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation sanctioned 2,200 tons of wheat for implementation of the projects. Several thousands rural poor, both male and female, have been engaged in the work of these projects in the rural areas of four thanas and in three pourasabhas here.

### Community clinics in Chhagalnaiya

**CHHAGAL NAIYA, (Feni) July 14:** A total of 10 community clinics will be set up in five unions of the thana to provide health, medicare facilities and family planning service to the people of rural areas in phases, reports BSS.  
According to an official source, as part of the countrywide programme community clinics will be started soon in each villages for six thousand people.

### Phensidyl seized: Man held

**MEHERPUR, July 14:** The Detective Branch of police arrested one person and seized 45 bottles of phensidyl from his possession from Motpara area of the town, police said, reports BSS.  
Acting on a tip-off the Detective Police raided a house in the area and arrested Moslem with contraband phensidyl syrup.



**New trap: Ghunirs** have flooded the markets of Magura. It is very popular for catching fish-fries in the rainy season. — Star photo

### Flood situation in Ctg improves

**From Staff Correspondent**  
CHITTAGONG, July 14: Flood situation has improved here on Tuesday as flood waters started receding with the cessation of rainfall from Monday night, administration sources said.

The rain waters which caused water logging in most of the low lying areas of the city have already receded, witnesses said.

However, in Chittagong district four thana areas including Raosan, Fatikchhari, Hathazari and Mirsharai came under flood due to incessant rains on Sunday and Monday.

Those areas were flooded for the second time within a month. Meanwhile, roads and culverts were worst affected in those areas.

In some of the low lying areas in Raosan and Fatikchhari most of the kutchha roads and culverts were damaged causing severe problem to traffic movement.

### Two killed in N'ganj road accident

**From Our Correspondent**  
NARAYANGANJ, July 14: Two people were killed and 10 others injured, two of them seriously, when a Dhaka bound minibus coming from Narayanganj hit a standing flower-laden truck from the opposite direction at Kuripara in Siddhirganj thana on Dhaka-Narayanganj link road at about 11:45pm recently.

Police and witnesses said, the accident took place when the driver of the minibus lost control over the vehicle and hit the standing truck on the road, leaving two passengers dead on the spot.

The victims were identified as Abdur Rahman, 50, and Selim, 35. Two of the injured were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where attending doctors stated their condition to be critical. Others were released after first-aid from Narayanganj Hospital.

The minibus and truck were badly damaged in the collision. Traffic came to a halt for about two hours on the Dhaka-Narayanganj link road, following the road accident.

Police seized the minibus and truck. Drivers and helpers of the bus and the truck left the scene immediately after the incident.

The dead bodies were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Uplift schemes abandoned in Netrakona

**From Our Correspondent**  
NETRAKONA, July 14: Different development projects, under taken by Facilities Department of the government, in the district have been left abandoned.

The department under took ten projects at a cost of Tk 2,41,90,000 in the year 1997-98 for the development of ten educational institutions in the district.

The educational institutions included five high schools, two senior madrasas, religious schools, and three colleges. But all the development work have been left unfinished.

The contractors of the department alleged that they did not get their bills cleared due to shortage of fund.

### Woman killed in village clash

**From Our Correspondent**  
GOPALGANJ, July 14: A woman was killed and at least 10 people were injured in a clash between two rivals at village Chartala under Gopalganj Sadar thana recently.

The two rivals locked in the clash over a petty incident, claiming the life of one Marzina Begum.

A rival group led by one Wadud Sheikh raided the house of one Rokonuddin Mia to recover a cow which was seized by Mia family while grazing in a paddy field owned by the family on June 22, triggering the clash.

During the clash Marzina Begum, 35, daughter of Rokonuddin Mia received injury and died on the spot.

A case was registered with Gopalganj police in this connection.

### Youngman killed in Rajshahi road accident

**From Our Correspondent**  
RAJSHAH, July 14: One youngman was killed in a road accident in front of Rajshahi College in Boalia thana here on Tuesday noon.

The victim identified as Shahjahan Ali Sazu, 24, of local Kazibah area in the city. Police sources said, the road accident occurred when a speeding truck ran over the youngman while he was crossing the road. He succumbed to his injuries on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

### Boy crushed under wheels of truck

**From Our Correspondent**  
JHENIDAH, July 14: An eight-year-old boy was crushed to death on the spot under the wheels of a Chuadagan bound speeding truck on Friday afternoon.

Police said, Probhat, a student of village Gopinathpur in sadar thana was crossing the road in the afternoon when a numberless truck from Jhenidah crushed him near Jhenidah TV relay centre. The driver managed to flee.

# Erosion threatens CIP dam, Haimchar thana

From Shirin Akhter



**Meghna's toll:** Erosion at Akhener hat, Haimchar, Chandpur continues unabated. Bamboo, twigs, bricks and textiles are being used in an effort to contain the onslaught (left). — Star photo

**CHANDPUR, July 14:** Erosion of the river Meghna has threatened the existence of Taka 100-crore Chandpur Irrigation Project (CIP) at Haimchar thana.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) here, about 10 kilometres area starting from Tajkarkandi to Akhaner hat has been seriously affected.

Erosion in the area has been continuing alarmingly causing serious damage to property. With the advent of the rainy season the Meghna river at Haimchar turned furious during the last few days. The strong currents along with high waves and gusty winds hit the bank in the area.

CIP embankment now stands within 50 metres of the bank of the Meghna river.

This is the third alter-native embankment of CIP. The original embankment was eroded in 1988 and second alternative embankment was eroded in 1998. The third alternative embankment (present one) was constructed last year at a cost of Taka 10 crore.

The erosion is not only threatening the CIP embankment but it also threatens the existence of the thana headquarters which was established in 1976. Haimchar thana consists of six unions namely Haimchar, Gazipur, Ulgea north, Ulgea south, Char Bhairabi and Nilkamal.

About 80 per cent area of Haimchar thana have been devoured during the last few years. In 1988 the erosion of the Meghna devoured the 200-year-old Haimcharbazaar and the whole thana complex including the government offices, hospital, telephone house and several educational institutions.

As a result a new thana headquarters was established at Kalikhola area. A large

number of erosion victims have taken shelter in different parts of the country. About 30 thousand rootless people have taken shelter on the CIP embankment.

These rootless people have been leaving in a sub-human condition now in the area. No effort has been made to rehabilitate the rootless people. Some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including Salvation Army have extended their help for rehabilitation of 5,000 rootless people. They have taken shelter in and around the railway

area will be inundated and crops and property worth about Taka 1000 crore will be damaged. About 10 lakh people of Chandpur sadar, Faridganj and Haimchar thanas of Chandpur district and Raipur, Ramganj and Laximpur thanas of Laximpur district will be affected. These areas are now protected by 90-kilometre long CIP embankment.

Earlier report says: About 90 per cent works of CIP embankment have been completed.

According to BWDB, Chandpur office sources government sanctioned Taka 5 crore 10 lakh to implement the project during the financial year 1998-99.

According to the project 1 thousand 2 hundred 20 metres long embankment at Natun bazar site and about 2 thousand metres long embankment at Puranbazaar site have already been completed. The embankments were implemented by dumping blocks and placing geo-textile along the bank of the River Meghna.

The executive engineer of Chandpur WDB, told this correspondent that one lakh thirty two thousand six hundred blocks have been made during the current season. About 80 per cent blocks have already been placed and 20 per cent have been kept reserved to meet emergency.

Our Jamalpur Correspondent reports: Erosion by the Jamuna and Brahmaputra has increased following incessant rainfall during the last few days.

Standing 'Aman' seed beds on a vast tract of land have already been damaged.

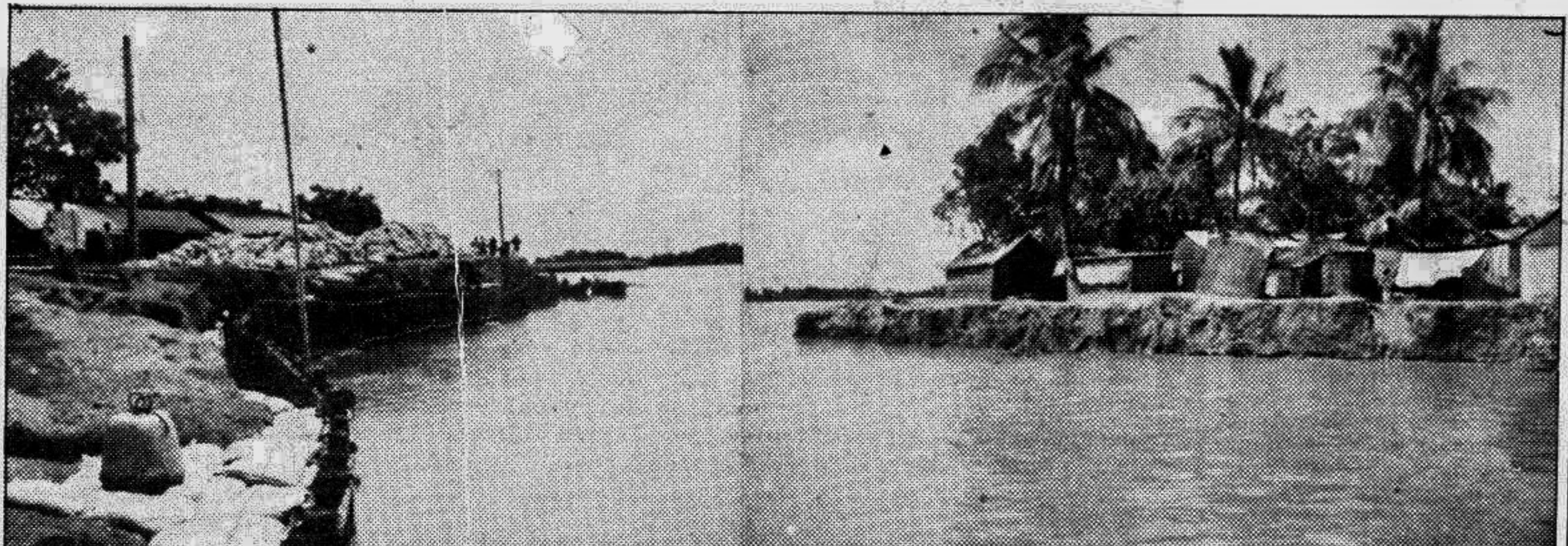
**WDB, Chandpur has already submitted a scheme of Taka 50 crore project for the construction of five groynes in five vulnerable points between Tajkarkandi and Katakali. But the government sanctioned only Taka 5 crore to protect Haimchar.**

station and madrasa road areas of the district town.

Md Aminul Islam, Executive Engineer of BWDB here told this correspondent that they had submitted a scheme of Taka 50 crore to the higher authorities to check the erosion of Haimchar. They suggested for construction of five 'groynes' in five vulnerable points between Tajkarkandi and Katakali.

Only an amount of Taka 5 crore has been sanctioned to protect Haimchar from the recurring erosions.

It is feared that Taka 100-crore CIP embankment may be eroded at any time if the erosion continues unabated. If the embankment is eroded then the entire irrigation project within 220 square miles



**Unabated destruction:** River erosion has taken a serious turn in Sarishabari thana, Jamalpur. People are trying to protect the locally important Jaluparaghat with sandbags and bricks (left). — Star photo

## Tea Board head office yet to be established at Srimongal

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

**MOULVI BAZAR, July 14:** The headoffice of Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) is yet to be established at Srimongal, even after a decision taken by the concerned authorities long ago.

As a result, the normal functioning of tea industries related matters is being hampered.

It may be mentioned here that the country's 87 per cent tea gardens are located in the Sylhet region. Of these, most tea gardens are situated in Moulvibazar district.

According to the official statistics, there are 161 tea gardens in Bangladesh. Of the total, 98 tea gardens are situated in Moulvibazar district, 23 in Habiganj district, 19 in Sylhet district, one tea garden in Brahmanbaria district and rest 20 tea gardens in the greater Chittagong region.

As most tea gardens are situated in Moulvibazar district (98 out of 161 gardens), so almost all of the tea industries related offices had been established at

Srimongal, the central place of Moulvibazar district as well as Sylhet region.

There are Tea Research Institute, Project Development Unit office, Bangladesh Tea Estate Staff Association office, Tea Industry's Labour Welfare Department office and branch offices of foreign owned tea companies at Srimongal.

But the head office of BTB, the parent organisation of tea industry is located far away from Sylhet region. As almost all the concerned offices except BTB are located here, the official work has been hampering due to lack of co-ordination among inter offices in absence of BTB at Srimongal.

In the past, the head office of BTB was established at Srimongal. But in 1984 it was shifted from Srimongal to Chittagong for unknown reasons. From that time, the tea garden owners and workers have been demanding reshifting of BTB

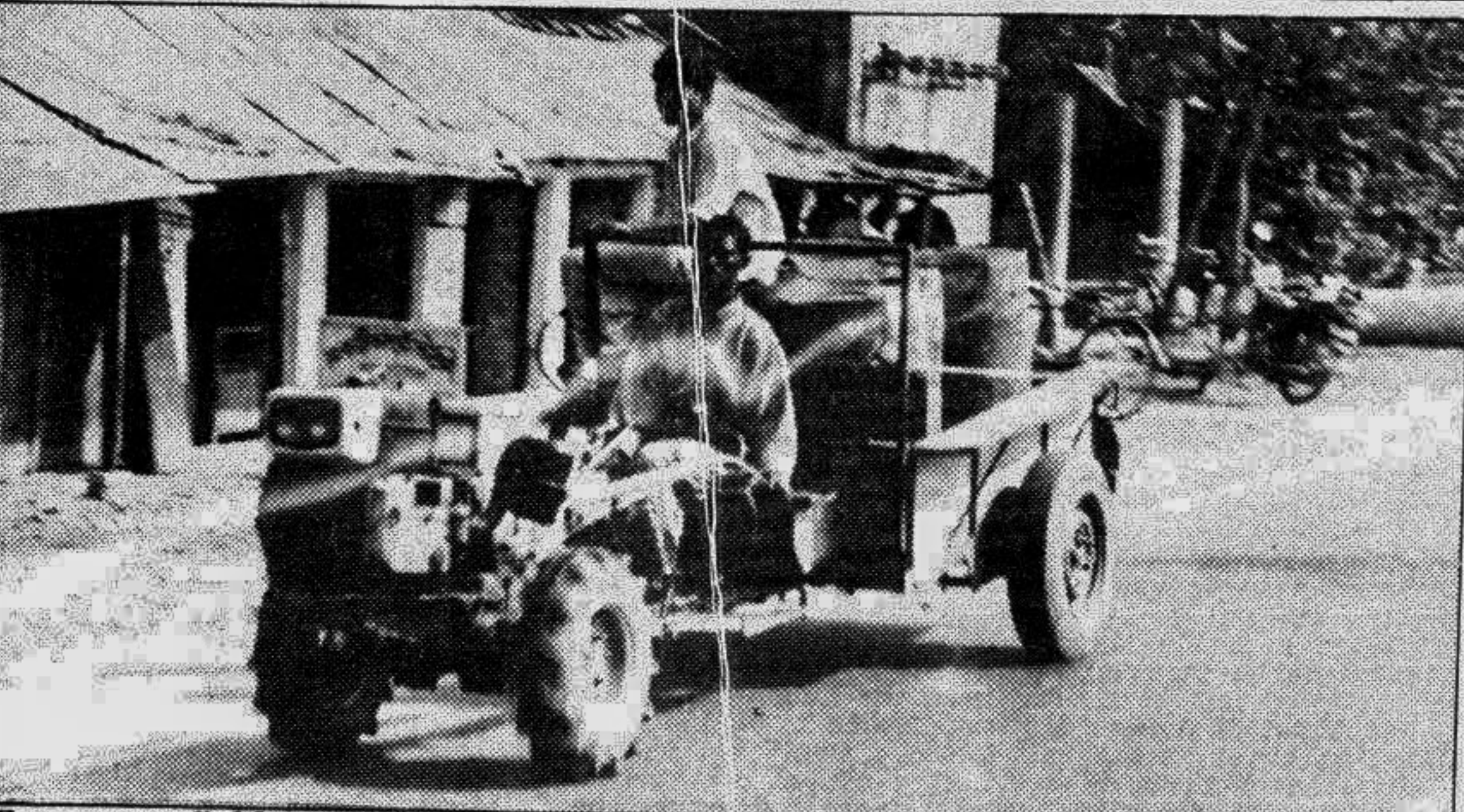
headquarters again at Srimongal.

During general elections of 1991 and 1996, the leaders of Awami League and BNP including Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia gave assurances to the people of Sylhet that if their parties were voted to power, the BTB headquarter would be shifted at Srimongal.

A few years back, the concerned ministry had decided to implement the demand of reshifting of BTB at Srimongal, but this decision is yet to be implemented.

A section of BTB officials has allegedly been creating obstacles in implementing the decision. They have made lame excuse that there is no sufficient accommodation facilities at Srimongal.

But different sources of tea industry related offices have said, Srimongal has enough accommodation facilities and if the BTB headquarter is shifted here no problem will be created.



**From crop-field to road:** Power-tillers in Nature are being used for transport. — Star photo

### Nurunnabi Chand's death condoled

**From Correspondent**  
RAJSHAH, July 14: Jattiya Party vice chairman and former minister Nurunnabi Chand died of heart attack in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The former president of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) left behind his wife and a good number of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mijanur Rahman Minu expressed his deep shock at his death. He conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Leaders of RCCI, former MP Momen Uddin Ahmed Manik, JP leader Mostaque Ahmed Labu and various trade body leaders in separate statements also expressed deep shock at his death. They conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

The members of Rajshahi City Press Club also condoled the death.

### 46 accused in murder case acquitted

**From Our Correspondent**  
KISHOREGANJ July 14: All the accused persons of a murder case have been acquitted recently by the court here.

M Kader Nawaz, Additional Sessions Judge, Second Court of Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered recently has acquitted all the 46 persons involved in murdering Meer Hossain of village Abdullahpur in Austagram thana.

The prosecution story in brief is that on December 4, 1994, the accused persons attacked Meer Hossain and his relatives with lethal weapons. At one stage, the assailants threw a spear locally known as 'halanga' that pierced into the chest of the victim killing him on the spot. Many others were injured in the incident.

### Cultivation of Alok-6201 paddy

**From Our Correspondent**  
NETRAKONA, July 14: The yield of Alok-6201, a High Yielding Variety (HYV) of paddy, is better this year in this district. It is learnt from the local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources.

According to AED sources, after a serious setback in the production of Alok-6201 variety (Indian) of paddy during the last T-Aman Season, only 200 hectares of land were brought under cultivation of this variety in the district during this season. Farmers did not show much interest in cultivating this variety this year. Production of the crop was only 30 maunds per acre. But this year the average production is 50 to 60 maunds per acre here due to favourable climatic condition.

AED conducted several crop cutting drives in different parts recently.

The production has varied from 45 maunds to 76 maunds per acre. The production was lower, where the crop fields were not kept under constant supervision of the block supervisors of AED. It is gathered.

When contacted the Deputy Director of AED told this correspondent recently that the production had been satisfactory this year.

## Faridpur now a paradise of drug addicts

From Abdul Matin Fakir

**FARIDPUR, July 14:** Faridpur town has now turned into a paradise of drug addicts, drug dealers and drug fiends.

Drugs of different kinds are smuggled into the local markets through different routes from India. The smuggled drugs include phensidyl, pathedine, heroin, and hemp. All these drugs are being sold clandestinely at Alipur, Luxmipur, Khabashpur, Tepakhola, Goalchamot, Supermarket and Rathkhola in the town. Besides, they are being sold at different markets in the rural areas of

eight thanas.

A survey conducted by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) reveals that youths of 18 to 25 age group had been found to be addicted mostly to different kinds of drugs. These drug addicts are involved in many kinds of anti-social activities causing people's worry.

Though the members of law enforcing agencies take drives off and on against the drug sellers and drug addicts, they fail to take effective measures against the offenders due to interference of their 'god fathers'.

### REB's failure

## 11,347 deprived of power for 11 yrs

**NAOAGAN, July 14:** The people of a union in sadar thana are being deprived of electricity as the Rural Electrification Board (REB) authorities here failed to provide them with power supply, reports UNB.

Local sources said the board collected about Tk 1.32 lakh from the intending subscribers of Tilakpur union in the beginning of 1988, but failed to supply power to them even after 11 years.

Sources said the money was collected from 11,347 people for residential connection and some others for industrial and irrigation connection.

Serious discontent has been prevailing among the people of the union in this regard.

When contacted, higher officials of Naoagan Palli Biddyt Samity admitted the fact and said the delay was due to the existing PDB line in the area.

UNB Correspondent from Kishoreganj said: About 200 transformers out of the total 4,600 of Palli Biddyt Samity has so far been stolen.

Competent sources said stealing of Palli Biddyt transformers was a regular phenomenon in the district incurring heavy losses to the Samity as well as to the farmers and other subscribers.

They complained that an organised gang was involved in this in collusion with a section of dishonest officials and employees of REB.

Instead of going for legal actions in these cases, REB authorities were collection half of the price of stolen transformer from the local subscribers, they added.

The subscribers expressed serious discontent over the practice saying it was a torture for them.

They demanded withdrawal of the unlawful practice of REB authorities and arrest of the organised gang responsible for the matter.