

## News snaps

### Law and order worsens

SHARIATPUR, July 28: The law and order situation in sadar thana may assume a disastrous proportion unless appropriate steps are taken to crack down on the criminals, reports UNB. Locals alleged that murder, robbery, burglary, rape, snatching, mugging and kidnapping have become commonplace in the thana. They accused the police administration of their failure in maintaining law and order. Recently, a police officer has been closed on charge of negligence to his duty.

### Bhairab, a ghost town

KISHOREGANJ, July 28: Like many small towns of the country Bhairab riverport has worn a ghost look due to poor roads, drainage system and inadequate streetlights, reports UNB. Townsmen alleged that they were being deprived of basic civic amenities as the authorities concerned are turning a blind eye to their demands. Criticising the elected representatives, they further alleged that the political leaders are busy making their fortunes. So, they have no time to work for their areas, they said. "When the election comes, they visit us frequently begging votes and they disappear soon after the election," lamented a schoolteacher.

### Day labourer electrocuted

JHALAKATHI, July 28: A day labourer was electrocuted at Uttar Kathipara village in Rajapur thana on Sunday, reports UNB. The victim was identified as Razzak, 25, son of Abdul Aziz Howlader of Subidkhali village in Mirzaganj thana of Patuakhali. Witnesses said Razzak was killed as he came in touch of a live wire while cutting down the branches of a tree to install a tubewell at the house of Kashem Mridha.

### Pipe gun recovered

SATKHIRA, July 28: Debhata thana police on Sunday recovered a pipe gun with a live cartridge from village Sesendra under Debhata thana, reports BSS. Police said acting on a tip-off police led by the officer-in-charge of the thana raided the place and recovered a pipe gun with one round of cartridge from the house of Abu Bakar Mridha.

### Workshop on children, women

COMILA, July 28: A workshop on the condition of women and children in the society was held on July 25 at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) here, reports BSS. Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Mobaidul Islam presided over the workshop sponsored by the UNICEF and the Government of Bangladesh. Seventy government and non-government officers and delegates participated in the workshop. Dr Amin Mazumdar and Sanzida Nasreen, among others, discussed various problems of women and children in the society and suggested ways and means to solve them.

### Alleged terrorist arrested

KHAGRACHHARI, July 28: Police arrested an alleged terrorist along with arms from Mahbub Nagar area in the town on Sunday, reports UNB. On information, police raided a Feni-bound bus and caught Muhammad Khan and recovered a pipegun and a razor from his possession.

### Seminar on TLM

MADARIPUR, July 28: A seminar on Total Literacy Movement (TLM) in Madaripur was held under the auspices of district administration at Muktiyoddha auditorium on July 20, reports BSS. Farhad Rahman, Deputy Commissioner Madaripur was the chief guest while Md Musa, TNO of Sadar thana presided over the seminar. Among others, M Mostafa, ADC (Gen), M Hafizur Rahman, ADC (Revenue), AFM Bahaudin Nasim, APS of Prime Minister, Nurul Alam Babu Chowdhury, Syed Sirajul Huque, Nasiruddin Jamader, Alamgir Hossain, Jahangir Kabir, Faruque Khan Chunnun and Ali Akbar Khoka spoke in the seminar.

### Scholarship awarding ceremony

CHANDPUR, July 28: The annual scholarship awarding ceremony of Chandpur Foundation, a voluntary social welfare organisation was held on July 21 at Chandpur Press Club. The function was presided over by Dr M A Gafur, Md Rezaul Karim, DC Chandpur attended the function as the chief guest and distributed scholarships among the meritorious and poor students. A total of 53 students studying in different colleges and universities received the scholarship.

### Body recovered

KUSHTIA, July 28: One unidentified body of a beautiful young woman was recovered on July 19 from village Baldipara of Mirpur thana near GK main canal bridge. The floating body was recovered from Musharapur village of Mirpur thana by the local people. Police said that somebody had killed the woman and fell it into the canal for reasons unknown. The body was sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

### Kidnapped girl yet to be rescued

NETRAKONA, July 28: Kalmakanda police could not yet rescue a schoolgirl even one month after her abduction. They could not even arrest the kidnappers. Local people said five miscreants identified as Saiful, Muhammad Ali, Abdul Hakim, Amjad and Shahjahan abducted the 13-year-old girl, a student of class seven on June 17. At that time she was coming out of her house to respond nature's call. She was taken by a trowler to an unknown place.

### Two unnatural deaths in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, July 28: Two unnatural deaths occurred in two separate incidents in Shaghat thana on July 19. In first incident Bijoy Majhee, 18, of village Ulla Sonatola committed suicide by taking pesticides following family disagreement. The victim died on way while being shifted to a hospital. In another incident, Milon, 17, of village Daldal drowned while crossing a bridge. He was returning home from his grandfather's house. On way while he was crossing the broken bridge suddenly he fell into deep water and drowned. Body of the victim was recovered the next morning from the roadside ditch.

### BAU orientation programme

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh) July 28: A one-day orientation programme for the newly admitted first year students for the session 1999-2000 under six faculties of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will be held on August 7. Classes of first year students will start on August 8 after the orientation function is over. All first year students are advised to attend the orientation programme on August 7 as it is compulsory for them.

### Pry student raped

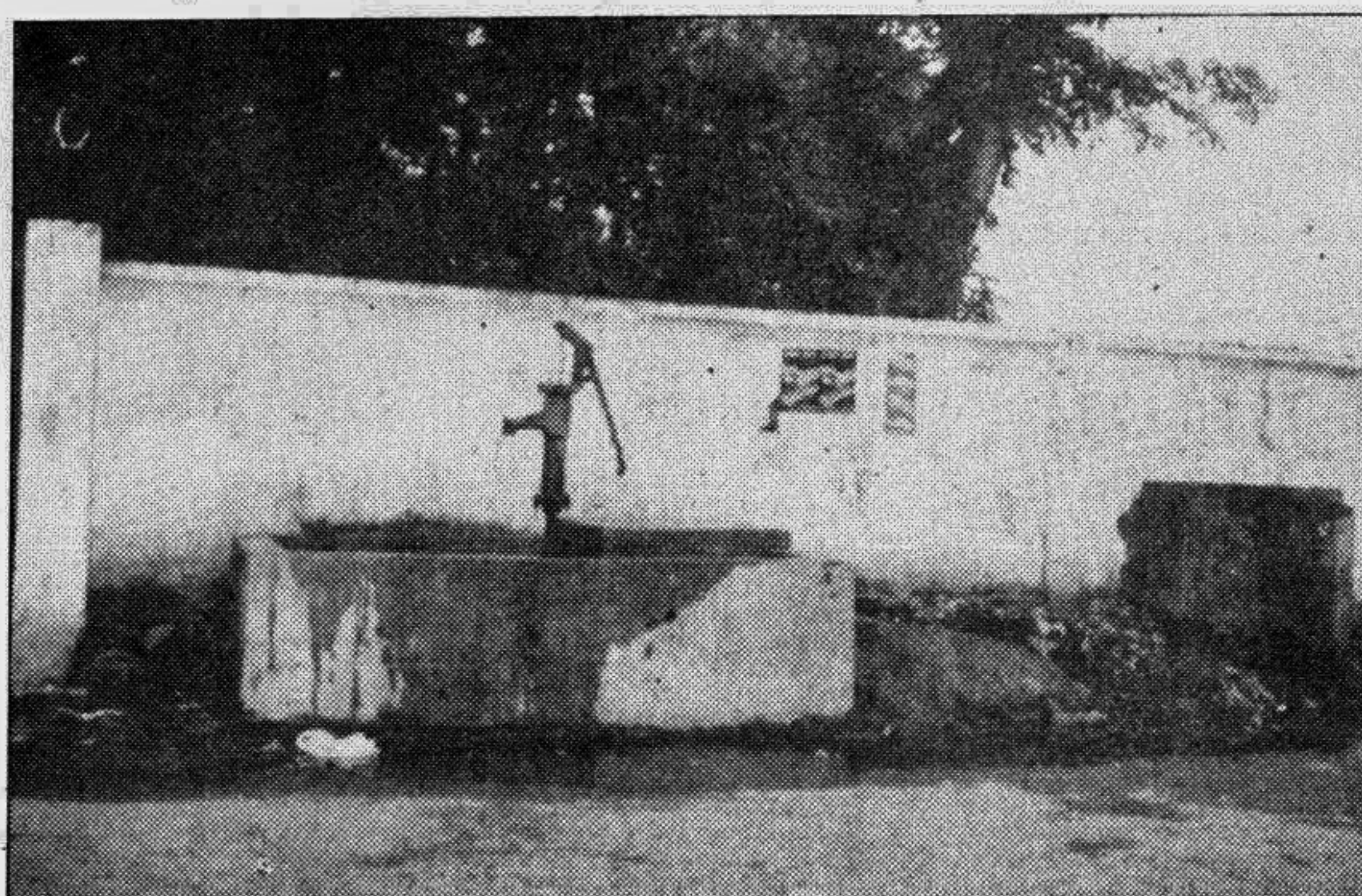
BRAHMANBARIA, July 28: One eight-year-old girl of village Amtoly in Nabinogor thana was raped by Sariat Ullah at the nearby paddy field of her village at around 4:30 pm on July 21. According to her family sources, while the girl, student of a primary school and daughter of Akter Mia was coming back from the local market, Sariat Ullah, son of Azor Hussain of village Satghar of Krisnanagar union in Nabinogor thana took her near paddy field and raped. Hearing the hue and cry, people on way to market rescued her from the spot.

### Man killed in road accident

BRAHMANBARIA, July 28: One person was killed, 15 others were injured in a road accident when a local bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Sunarampur on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in the Sadar thana recently. According to eye witnesses, the bus was on way to Brahmanbaria which lost control and plunged into the roadside ditch. As a result one person was killed on the spot and 15 persons were injured. Autopsy of the body was done at sadar hospital.

### Brahmanbaria Poura budget

BRAHMANBARIA, July 28: Brahmanbaria Poursabha approved a Taka 18.21.13.566 budget with an expenditure of Taka 16.13.50.000 for the fiscal year 1999-2000. The budget shows a surplus in total resources including poura taxes, government revenue, government grant and aid to the tune of Taka 2,07,63,566. Newly elected poura chairman Md Helal Uddin announced the surplus budget in a meeting held at Mahbubul Huda conference room of the poursabha on June 24.



Waste and water: A leaking water tank with adjacent dustbins on both sides in front of Netrakona government college. — Star photo

## 700 landless families yet to get possession of khas land

From K M Rezaul Hoque

GAIBANDHA, July 28: Over 700 landless families here are yet to get possession of khas land despite receiving valid lease deed.

The district administration disbursed khas plots among 717 landless families of sadar thana, Fulchari, Gabindaganj, Sunderganj and Shaghat. But till date no step was taken to get possession of the plots. All the plots are now under the possession of local influential land grabbers.

Many of the lease holders of khas lands tried to take possession of grabbed plots but they could not do anything against the muscle power of grabbers.

Last year one person of Fulchari thana and another of Jumarbari union in Shaghat thana were killed by the supporters of land grabbers when the victims went to take possession of plots.

Two cases were filed in the respective thanas but future of the cases are almost uncertain as the grabbers are active to influence the proceeding of cases.

No measure was taken from the administration concerned to recover the grabbed plots as yet.

The landless families are 350 families of Moller char union, 23 families of Bal-lamhar union, 20 families of Kamarjani union in Gaibandha sadar thana, 47 families of Haripur union in Sunderganj thana, 30 families of Fulchari union in Fulchari thana, 54 families of Salmara union, 86 families of Katabari union in Gobindaganj thana, 33 families of Kachua union, 18 families of Kamalerpara union and 60 families of Jumarbari union in Shaghat thana.



Support to the club: Parliamentary advisor to prime minister Suranjit Sen Gupta, MP donated 25,000 takas to the Habiganj press club. — Star photo

## Jhenidah phone subscribers not getting proper service

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 28: Telephone subscribers of Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTB) in Jhenidah district are not getting proper service from the state-run phone service provider.

The 1,400 line analogue board installed at the district headquarters is in a dilapidated condition, causing immense suffering to the subscribers in the district.

Subscribers have been suffering a lot as in the peak hour as lines remain dead. Trouble becomes serious when subscribers dial 02 for Dhaka or any other national wide dialling (NWD) code number. Most of the calls read wrong number, causing financial suffering to the subscribers. Besides, the subscribers can hear only noisy sound.

Moreover, subscribers trunk dialling (STD), NWD and overseas call booking numbers are not available in Jhenidah district for the last two months, depriving the government of huge revenue income.

At Kaliganj thana headquarters a 600-line phone exchange has been installed. But the subscribers cannot use phones at their convenient times as the dialling number 9 is not available.

According to BTB, it had installed operator trunk dialling (OTD) to bring the thana level telephone exchanges under NWD facilities.

But the OTD numbers often remain dead for hours, causing sufferings to callers both from the outside and inside local boards.

At Shaikupur thana headquarters two telephone boards with central battery (CB) system for 300 subscribers, have been installed. Out of total 13 pairs of cords, only four pairs are not able to meet the demand of huge number of subscribers, compelling the poor subscribers to wait for hours for a call.

Moreover, the boards remain dead whenever power goes off. It is a regular feature.

Local people and subscribers said the sufferings of the subscribers were brought into the notice of Post, Telecom and Home Minister Mohammad Narsim during his recent visit to Shaikupur. But nothing has been done yet in this regard, although the minister assured the local people of taking immediate steps to solve the problems.

The condition of 350-line Kotechandpur and 100-line Mohehpur telephone exchanges and 115-line board of Hari-nakundu thana headquarters is almost the same.

Besides, 150-line magneto board at Khalispur Bazar under Mohehpur thana, 50-line board at Hat Gopalpur Bazar and 100-line board at Sod-huhati Bazar under Sadar thana have no OTD telephones, forcing the subscribers to depend on trunk dialling system, which remains dead for many hours.

### 200 BNP, JP men join AL

KHULNA, July 28: About 200 leaders and workers of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jatiya Party joined Awami League on June 18 in a public meeting held at Joypur Bazaar premises in Batiaghata thana, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Mohiuddin Aktar, president of Khulna district Awami League.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by former Opposition Whip Sheikh Harun-ur Rashid.



Prof Abdul Khaleque, vice-chancellor, Rajshahi University, inaugurating a workshop on Arsenic pollution at the university's senate house. — Star photo

## Dearth of capital hits fish production in S-W dists

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 28: The fish production has declined in the south-western districts due to absence of proper planning, dearth of capital, dispute over ownership of water bodies and complexities in demarcation of khas lands.

Government plan to bring silted ponds and other water bodies under pisciculture has not been implemented, declining the fish output.

At least 52,379 ponds and tanks under Fisheries Department in Kushtia, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Jessore, Chuadanga, Meherpur Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts are yet to be brought under pisciculture scheme.

Fish worth about Tk five crore can be cultivated in these ponds and tanks under extensive pisciculture scheme, source in the Fisheries Department said.

According to the source, there are about 6,375 silted ponds and tanks in Kushtia district which can produce an additional 13,000 maunds of fish worth about taka 2,13,07,000. There are about 13,432 silted ponds and tanks in Jhenidah district that can produce 27,000 maunds of additional fish worth about taka 8 crore. The 4,692 silted ponds and tanks in Magura can produce 27,000 maunds of additional fish valued at about Tk 8 crore. Narail can produce 14,000 maunds of additional fish worth about Tk 2,23,00,000. There are 3,000 silted ponds and tanks in Chuadanga that can produce additional 500 maunds of fish.

Besides, a large number of water bodies are yet to be brought under pisciculture in Meherpur, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts. It is further learnt that the Pond Development Act has been revised to boost the fish production. As per the revised act the deputy commissioners and the thana nirbahi officers (TNOs) will serve notices on the owners of the uncultivated silted ponds and tanks to bring the water bodies under pisciculture programme.

If the owners fail to cultivate fish in their water bodies within the specific time, those will be declared acquired. And these water bodies will be handed over to any person or organisation on 20 years term to cultivate fish. The original owners will get the fixed amount of money during the period.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to apply the Pond Development Act strictly to help expedite the fish production in the country.

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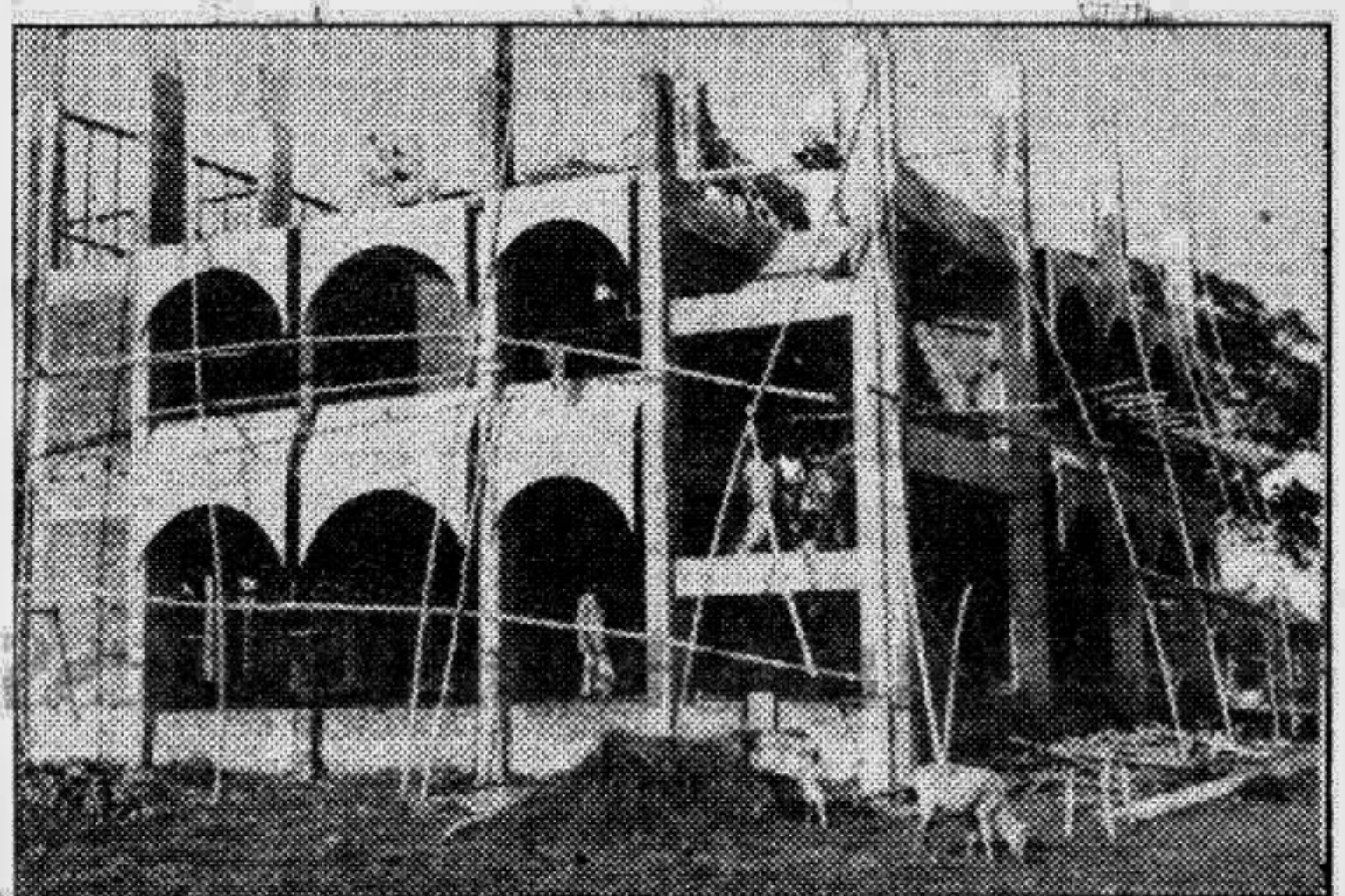
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## Events of districts in picture



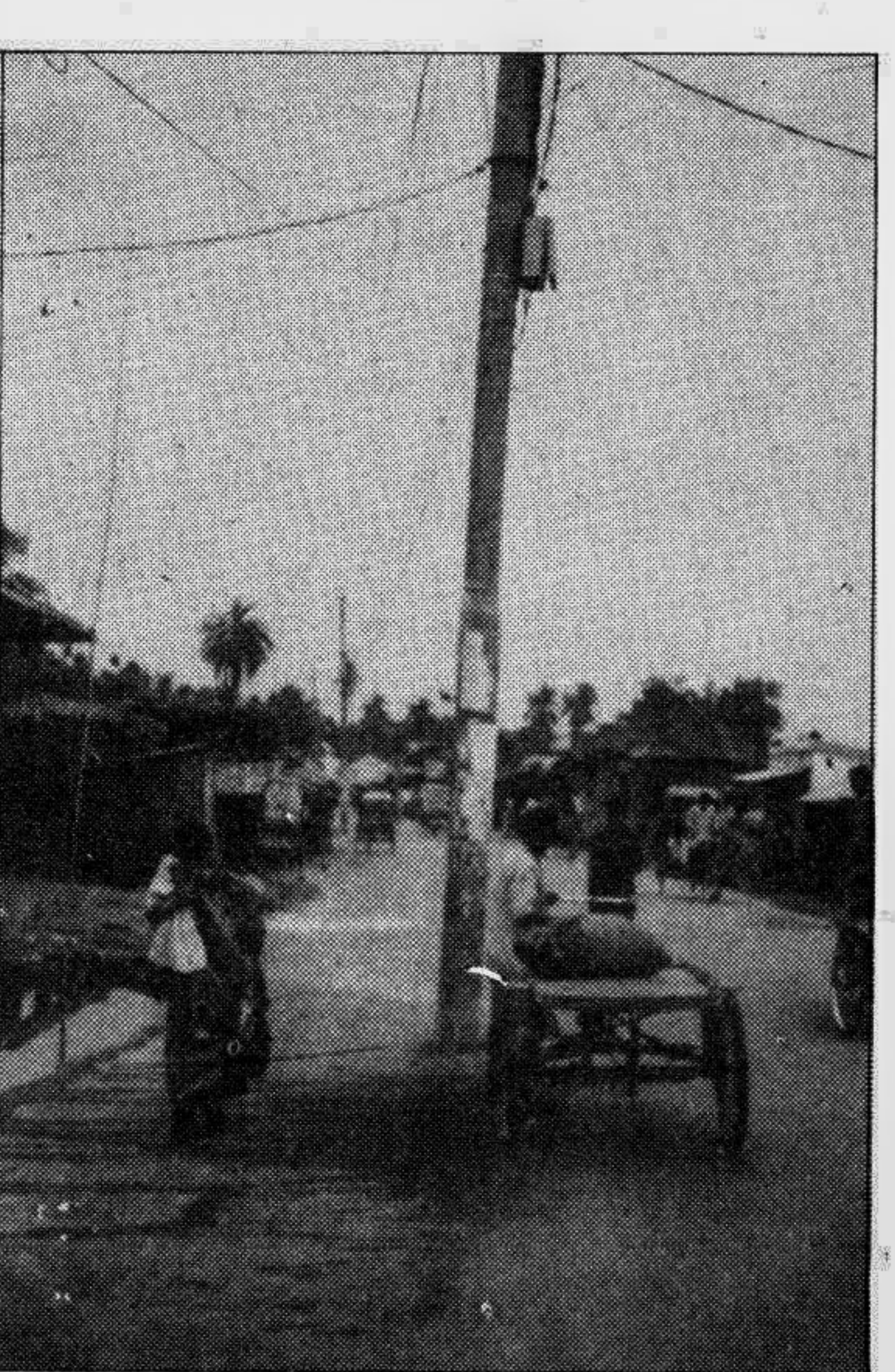
Prof Md Abdullah, MP, handing over documents of a flood shelter built in Rajrajeshwar union, Chandpur sadar, by Caritas — a NGO. — Star photo by Shirin Akhter



Construction work on the Tk 1.93 crore Diabetic Hospital in Jhenidah is almost complete. — Star photo by Delwar Kabir



A discussion 'Pala Badal' was organised by Apex club of Brahmanbaria at the district council auditorium. — Star photo by Sk Shahidul Islam



Crazy nuts: The electric pole in the middle of Magura's Nutan Bazaar road is PDB's idea of development. — Star photo

### 2nd Cub holiday of Ghior thana

MANIKGANJ, July 28: The second cub holiday of Ghior thana was held at Ghior D N Pilot High School playground under the auspices of Ghior Thana Scouts on Friday, reports BSS.