

News snaps

Criminal arrested

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 30: A wanted criminal was arrested from village Ghagra in the district last week. The criminal, Mahub, had been wanted in three cases, police said. He also confessed to the police that he was involved in the murder of a boatman in the Koyra river near Humapur under Bajitpur thana.

41 bottles of phensidyl seized

From A Correspondent

NARSINGDI, July 30: 41 bottles of Indian made phensidyl syrup were seized from Khalisartak village under Palash thana in the district recently. Police also arrested one Mohabbad Ali in this connection. Police said Mohabbad Ali was running the illegal trading of phensidyl for a long time.

Four drown

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 30: Three children and a young man drowned in separate incidents in the district recently. According to eye witnesses, Supri, 9, daughter of Abdus Satter, Jami, 7, daughter of Bazur Rahman and Sujun, 1, son of Harun Ali, of village Gander Para of Poguldisha union under Sarabari thana drowned in a pond. The children were swimming in the pond.

In separate incident, one Shameem, 25, drowned in the river Brahmaputra recently.

Fisheries Week discussion

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 30: A discussion in connection with the inauguration of 'Fisheries Week 99' was held last week at Magura sadar thana parishad auditorium. Deputy Commissioner A K M Rabiqul Islam presided over the discussion while M S Akbar MP was the chief guest.

The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Additional Deputy Commissioner Faruk Ahmed Khan, Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer Moshir Rahman, Abdul Fattah, Rustom Ali, Abu Nasir Bablu, Abdur Rab and Shikder Monjurul Alam. Earlier a colourful procession paraded the town roads. District Fish Cultivators' Association organised the procession.

Fisheries Week in Comilla

COMILLA, July 30: Fisheries Week's 99 was inaugurated in Comilla by Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Mujibul Huq MP on Sunday at a function held in Zila Parishad premises, reports BSS.

The function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Mawla. Deputy Director, Fishers Chittagong Division Hasan Mahmud, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Comilla Abul Hossain Molliha, Director of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Nurul Islam, Deputy Director, Youth Development Directorate Ammar Rahman and Secretary of Comilla Zila Parishad Muniruzzaman, among others, spoke on the occasion.

All for love

MAGURA, July 30: It all happened for love. The police arrested four persons from Dhoal village in Mohammapur thana of the district to avert clash among them, reports UNB.

Recently, 19 daughter of Moteb Karikar of the village had affairs and illicit relations with her neighbour Sirajul Islam, 30. On the night of July 20, Moteb Karikar caught the lovers red handed in a compromising position and sent them to the house of Siraj, residents and police said. But Siraj refused to marry Hena. That enraged the father of the girl. He mobilised villagers in his support to punish Siraj. The guardians of Siraj also prepared with sharp weapons to face any attack. On information the police rushed to the village and arrested Siraj, Moteb, Ajbir Mollah and Shamsur Rahman to avert clash. They were sent to hajat pending settlement of the problem.

Pirojpur Press Club launches

PIROJPUR, July 30: A new organisation of the journalists Pirojpur District Press Club was launched here Friday, reports UNB.

The Press Club was set up with thana and district correspondents of different national dailies for the welfare of the journalists and their professional development. A 15-member committee was formed with MA Rabbani Firoj of Khabar as its president and Ranjan Bakshi Nupu of Sangbad as general secretary.

Housewife gang raped

JESSORE, July 30: A young housewife was gang raped by armed miscreants in the district, reports UNB.

According to the police, four armed terrorists led by Kamrul Hassan of Bijnagar village in Kotwali thana forcibly entered the house of a housewife Zafar in the night of Saturday. They took her Zafar and tied him up to a nearby tree. The culprits then violated his wife Firoja (25) one after another in front of him and left the spot leaving her unconscious. Zafar filed a case with the local police accusing Kamrul Hassan, 30, Iqbal Hossain, 25, Abu sayed, 27, and Monirul Islam Monitu.

304 TR projects implemented

HABIGANJ, July 30: A total 304 projects were implemented in eight thanas of Habiganj district under test relief programme of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department in 1998-1999, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned 1,343 tones of wheat for implementation of the projects. The thana-wise break-up is: Bahubal 31 projects, Chunarughat 50, Lakhal 38, Mdhapur 48, Nabiganj 44, Baniachang 45, Amirganj 22 and habiganj sadar 36, eleven projects were implemented in habiganj Paurashava and one each in Nabiganj, Shaitaganj and Madhapur Paurashavas. The work of the projects included repair of village roads, education institutions, mosques and temples and earth work in recreational grounds.

Plan to electrify Belaichhari

RANGAMATI, July 30: Chittagong Hill Tracts electrification development project of the Bangladesh Power Development Board plans to set up a 132 KV transmission line to bring Belaichhari thana of the district under its electric supply network, reports BSS.

An official source said taka 2.5 crore has been sanctioned in the current fiscal year for implementation of the project. The decision was taken at the initiative of the Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Kaipa Ranjan Chakma, the source said. Three thanas of the district, Belaichhari, Borkal and Zurachhari could not be brought under electric supply network directly due to inaccessibility and geographical dislocation.

Jute farming on 15,800 hectares

GAIBANDHA, July 30: About 15,800 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation in Gaibandha district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, of the total land 8,767 hectares have been brought under high yielding variety Tosha jute and the rest under local varieties. Production target has been fixed at around 1,56,00 bales of jute in the district this year. Jute was cultivated on 15,587 hectares of land in Gaibandha district in 1998. About 1,75,000 bales of jute were produced in the district last year.

Wheat under VGD programme

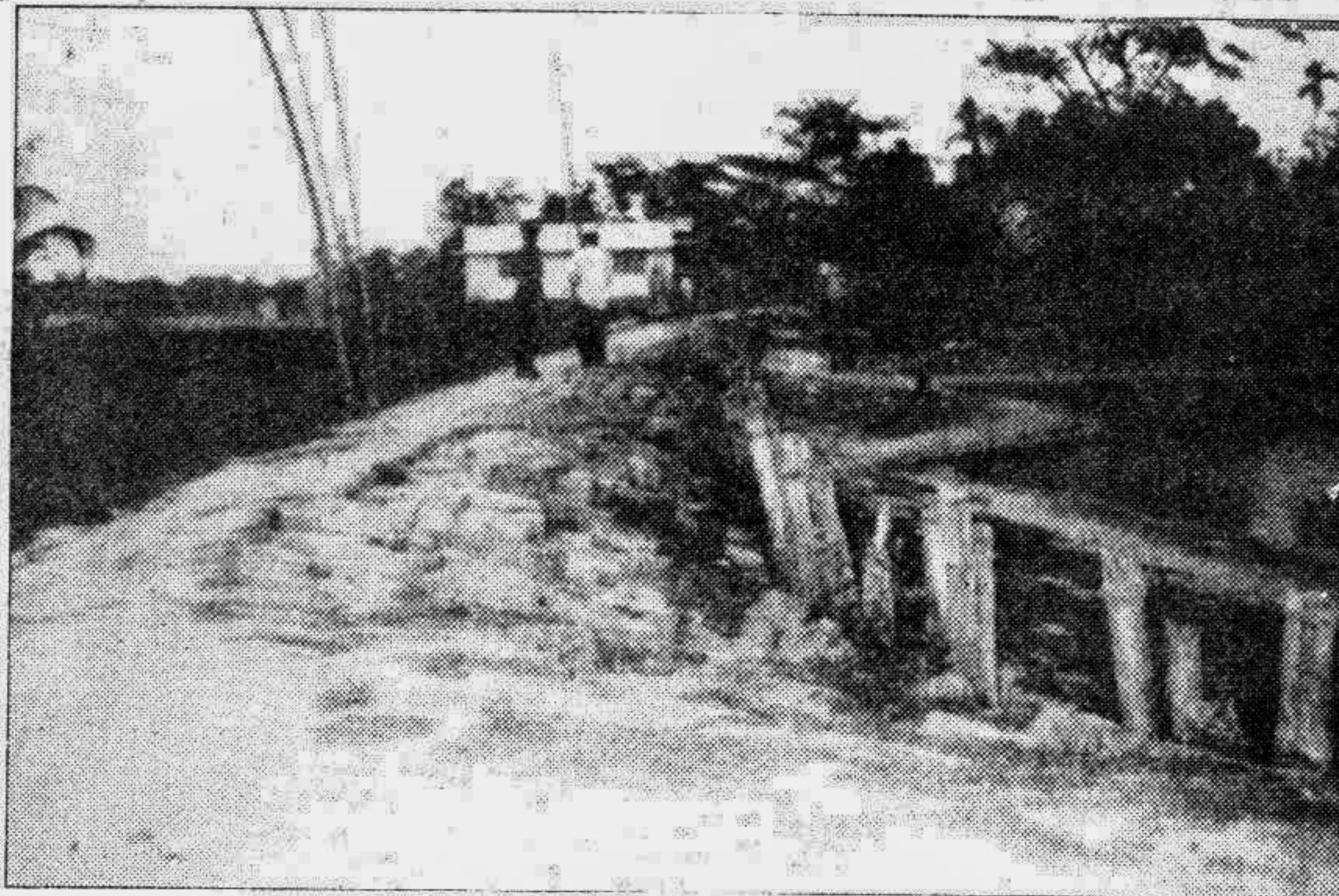
KISHOREGANJ, July 30: A total of 4568 tones of wheat have been allotted under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme in 13 thanas of the district, reports BSS.

According to District Relief, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Department sources, these wheat will be distributed among 12675 card holders of 107 unions of the district from July 99 to June 2000. The thana wise number of card holders and allotted wheat are: 76 tonnes against 210 card holders in Ashtagram thana, 558 tonnes against 1551 in Bajitpur, 305 tonnes against 846 in Bhairab, 65 tonnes against 180 in Hossainpur, 146 tonnes against 405 in Itna, 808 tonnes against 2244 in Kartiganj, 508 tonnes against 1410 in Kltadi, 558 tonnes against 1551 in sadar, 540 tonnes against 1500 in Kularchar, 363 tonnes against 1008 in Nikli, 108 tonnes against 300 in Pakundia, 464 tonnes against 1290 in Tarali and 69 tonnes against 180 in Mithaman thana.

Three terrorists surrender

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 30: Three terrorists along with their arms surrendered recently. They were Nazrul Islam, 27, son of Amirul Islam with one gun and three cartridges, Dulal Hossain alias Dayal, 29, son of Zafiruddin of Chak Damukdia with one gun and three cartridges and Ali Akbar Dabu, 26, son of Nur Mohammad of village Newda Kharara of Mirpur thana with one gun and two cartridges. They surrendered to Mamun-ar-Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bheramara police station. Police officials and local Awami League leaders were present on the occasion.



Apology of a road: The Bhatikeshwar-Balashpur road is in a dilapidated condition like many other roads in Mymensingh municipality. — Star photo

T-Aman farming on 89,510 hectares in Jhenidah

By Staff Correspondent

A massive transplanted aman cultivation programme has been taken up in Jhenidah and 16 northern districts.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports: Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has set a target to bring 89,510 hectares of land under transplanted Aman cultivation in the district.

Of them, 19,050 hectares of land for high yielding variety (HYV) and 150 hectares for local variety of paddy in Jhenidah sadar thana, 15,350 hectares for HYV and 30 hectares for local variety in Sailakupa thana, 16,370 hectares for HYV and 170 hectares for local variety in Kaliganj thana, 4,750 hectares for HYV in Kotchandpur thana, 19,120 hectares for HYV and 10 hectares for local variety in Moheshpur thana and 10,950 hectares for HYV and 30 hectares for local variety in Harinakundu thana will be brought under the cultivation.

But lack of proper irrigation facility and pest attack may

hamper the farming, farmers said.

Farmers said bacterial diseases have been affecting the paddy farming. Because of the diseases spots have been developing on the leaves of paddy. When contacted, DAE officials said that they had been motivating the farmers to destroy pamri pest. We are also suggesting the farmers to use pesticides and fertiliser in proper way.

Moreover Ganges-Kabadak (GK) project authority could not supply water during farming period, farmers said.

BSS from Rangpur adds: A massive transplanted aman (T-Aman) cultivation programme is being executed by the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) across sixteen northern districts of Rajshahi region in the current season. BSS was told by a source of AED.

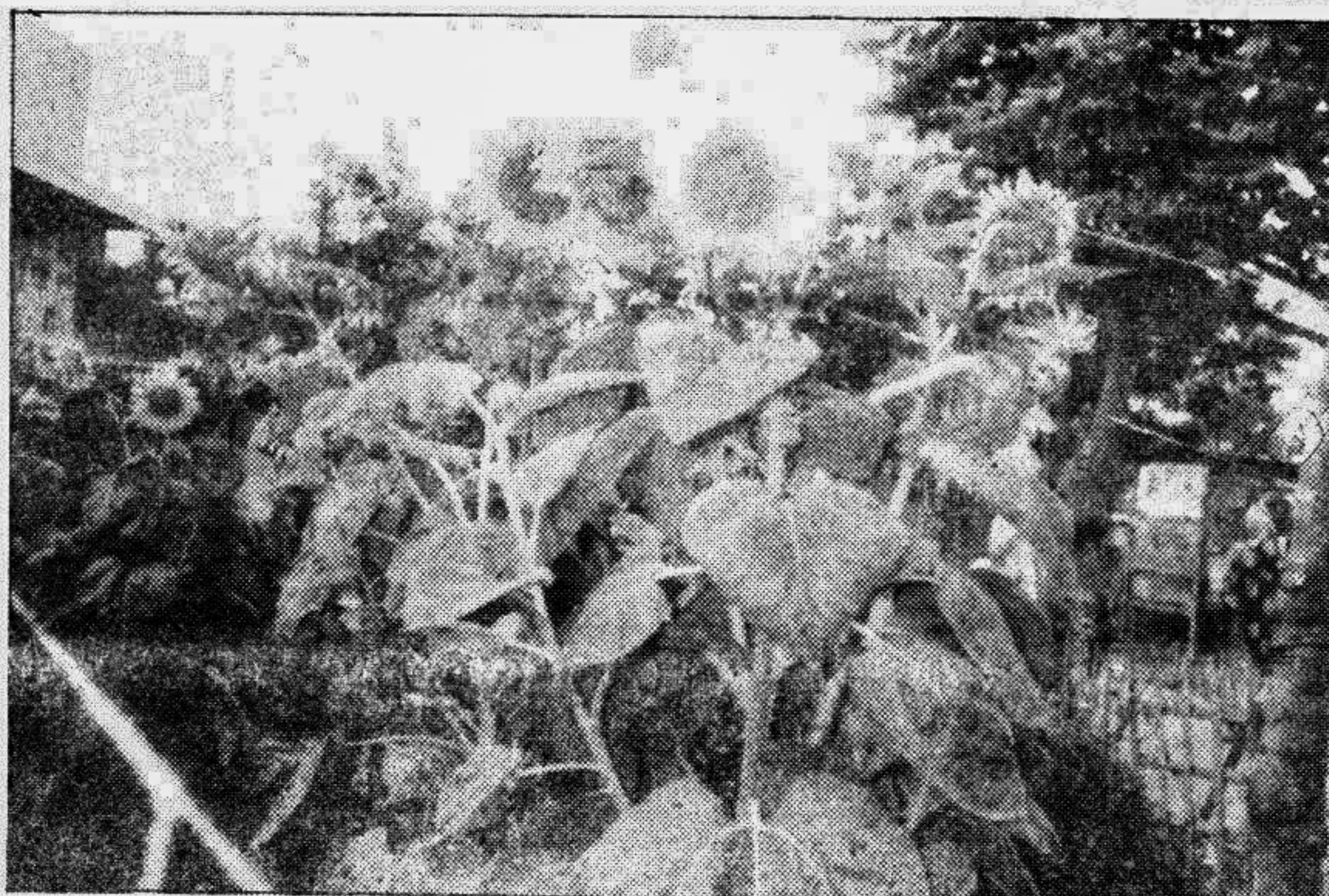
Under the programme, at least 16,57,375 hectares will be cultivated with transplanted aman in these districts of them,

5,64,895 hectares will be put under cultivation in five districts of greater Rangpur zone, 3,11,820 hectares in four districts of greater Rajshahi zone, 4,79,240 hectares in three districts of greater Dinajpur zone, 2,48,640 hectares in two districts of greater Bogra zone and 52,780 hectares in two districts of greater Pabna zone.

Government has already distributed the required chemical fertilizers and BADC provided the farmers with HYV and local varieties of seeds to make the T-Aman cultivation programme a success.

There is a target to produce 31 lakh 60 thousand and 685 tonnes of aman paddy in these districts in the current season, an Agriculture Extension Department source said.

The preparation of seed-bed has been completed and the farmers are now engaged in sowing of the seedlings, according to the information poured here from across the region.



Sunflower crop in full bloom in Kewalkhali, Mymensingh sadar. — Star photo

Tota bahini leader surrenders

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, July 30: Tota bahini leader Tayebur Rahman (Tota) surrendered along with two firearms to M Akbar Ali, Superintendent of Police, Magura, at his office on Thursday.

At the time of surrender Tota introduced himself as a member of the so-called Sarbahara Party.

Arms deposited by him included one country-made gun, one pistol and three rounds of bullet.

Police sources said Tota was awarded life-term rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a murder case. He is also an accused of six criminal cases including murder and 'toll-collection'.

Shortage of farming animals in Natore

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, July 30: Farmers of all the six thanas here have been facing an acute shortage of farming animals. The phenomenon has threatened cultivation to a great extent.

About 50 per cent cultivators here have no bullock of their own for tilling their land. Poor farmers usually cultivate their land by hiring bullocks at high prices during the sowing season.

Many of the farmers cultivate their lands on share-crop basis as they are unable to purchase farm animals due to sharp rise in prices. The price of pair of bullocks ranges between Tk 8,000 to Tk 15,000.

In most cases, farmers are compelled to use their milch

cows to plough their lands. A very few farmers can get a loan for purchasing bullocks.

Various cattle diseases take a heavy toll every year in Natore villages. The veterinary service has proved to be a total failure in this regard. Moreover, the veterinary surgeons stationed in thana sadars hardly go to the villages. It is alleged. Non-availability of life saving medicines in the veterinary hospitals is also reported by many farmers.

A section of meat traders in the rural areas defying government order to observe meatless day also slaughter a good number of farm animals causing shortage of bullocks.



Will their hopes be realised?: Following bumper production of IRR-Boro paddy the farmers of Jhenidah are encouraged to cultivate Aus paddy this season. Shampur farmers of Sailakupa thana irrigating water through shallow machines (left) and cleaning weeds (right) hoping for another good harvest. — Star photo by Delwar Kabir.



Poor man's steel: Bamboo is a common house building material for most villagers in Bangladesh and a powerful storm and flood buffer. But prices of the reed have recently shot up in the hats and bazaars of Magura. — Star photo.

Fake police inspector arrested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 30: Paba police arrested a fake police inspector in front of the thana office in Nawhata on July 28 evening.

Police sources said that the arrested person had been identified as Mehedi Hassan Nekbor of Prashadpur village in Manda thana of Naogaon district. He was a medicine trader.

Police said that he was going with a stolen motor cycle. When police challenged him about the motor cycle he identified himself as the OC (Officer-in-Charge) of Olipur thana in Kurigram district. At this stage police arrested him when he failed to show his valid documents.

Police sent him to court hajat.

Tension grips 5 villages of Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, July 30: Tension gripped five villages of Mohespur union in Raipur thana following a series of clashes between rival groups on Thursday that left at least 25 people injured, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said supporters of Lal Miah of Hoglakandi village and Shaheed Miah of Kacharikandi village launched attacks on each other in the morning over establishing supremacy in the area.

The clash soon spread over the neighbouring villages of Begumabad, Zhaukandi and Karapur as the followers of Lal and Shaheed joined in the encounter.

The injured were admitted to Bajitpur and Bhairab hospitals.

The rival groups also ransacked the houses of their opponents and looted valuables and cattle, locals said.

Police reached there at about 2 pm and arrested 22 people of both groups.

Four temporary police camps were set up in the area to avert further trouble.

Naval Staff Course certificate awarding ceremony

CHITTAGONG, July 30: The certificate awarding ceremony of the Junior Staff Course conducted by the Bangladesh Naval Academy was held recently in the academy auditorium at Patenga, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher attended the ceremony as chief guest and distributed certificates among the student-officers. The course was participated by the mid-level officers of Bangladesh Navy and officers from Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force.

Addressing the student-officers, the Chief of the Naval Staff stressed the need for professional training to sharpen their human qualities and strengthen their store of knowledge. He also said that this course would help them to become an effective commander by applying their managerial skill, effective communication and logical thinking.

Admiral Taher asked them to utilise their professional excellence to achieve the noble objectives of safeguarding our national interest at the sea.

WATER POLLUTION

High quantum of arsenic in Gopalganj tubewells

GOPALGANJ, July 30: Arsenic beyond the permissible level was found in water of about 300 tubewells in five thanas of the district causing worries to the people of the area, reports UNB.

Waters from 1000 tubewells were collected in a recent survey, out of 18,000 tubewells in urban and rural areas. Laboratory test showed arsenic in the waters of 300 tubewells, said an official of Public Health Engineering Department.

BRAC, a NGO, also found high quantum of arsenic in 80 per cent tubewells of Muksudpur and Kashiani thanas.

Two persons of Muksudpur suffering from arsenic diseases are undergoing treatment in Sadar Hospital while unknown

number of others whose condition is not serious stayed back.

Meanwhile, the tubewells highly contaminated by arsenic have been sealed up by the health workers. Residents of respective areas have been advised to take water for pond, canals or rivers after boiling.

Villagers are compelled to use surface water polluted by various ways. They refrain from using waters of tubewells that were not yet tested fearing arsenic pollution.

PHD Executive Engineer told that lack of necessary equipment and inadequate manpower have hindered the work of testing water of rest of the tubewells in five thanas so that villagers are sure of getting safe water from safe tubewell.

Events of districts in picture



The Zoology department of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities and Bergen University of Norway jointly arranged a course on Experimental Design in the Rajshahi University campus. Prof Abul Fazel Huq, RU treasurer, addressing the function. — Star photo.



A planning meeting on Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) training in Maheshpur thana was held at Jhenidah civil surgeon's conference room recently. — Star photo.



A colourful procession was organised at Netrakona on World Red Crescent Day. Acting chairman of local Red Crescent unit Osman Gani Talukder and Fazlur Rahman, MP led the procession. — Star photo.

Water logging damages crops on 80,000 acres in Comilla annually

COMILLA, July 30: Water logging has become a perennial problem in the southern part of the district during the rainy season causing damage to crops on 80,000 acres every year, reports UNB.

Farmers and officials said stagnation of waters caused mainly because of silting of the canal and river beds.

They estimate that aus, aman and boro crops worth Tk 160 crore are lost every year as waters submerge 50,000 acres in Sadar, 20,000 acres in Laksam and 10,000 acres in Chaudagram thanas.

Farmers who have been demanding solution of the problem since 1950 once blocked the rail and road communication in the district in 1989 when the movement got momentum. But the problem remained

unresolved, lamented the farmers who accused the authorities for neglecting the area. The Dakatia river which has already been silted up at places overflow with waters from hilly areas across the border. As a result, the entire area of Kashinagar of Choudagram and Jorkaron union of Sadar thana go under water.

Officials said drainage system did not work smoothly due to hindrance in the normal course of old and new Dakatia rivers affected by silting.

The old Dakatia meets the Meghna through Gumti to Pipulia, Kashinagar to Kazirhat of Nookhali and Pipulia to Laksham-Hajiganj-Chandpur. Besides new Dakatia, Ingajuri, Ruhita, Kamlapur-Laxmipur and Pagla canals are carrying the river water submerging the area.