

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, Mahbub, 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 Humalpur under Bajitpur thana.

41 bottles of phenisidyl seized

From A Correspondent

NARSINGDI, July 30: 41 bottles of Indian made phenisidyl 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 phenisidyl 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, Supriya, 9, daughter of Abdus Satter, Jami, 7, daughter of Bazlur Rahman and Sujan, 1, son of Harun Ali of village Gander Para of Poguldhish union under Sarisabaria 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 thana parishad auditorium. Deputy Commissioner A K M Rabiquil 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 Mosthuri Rahman, Abdul Fattah, Rustam Ali, Abu Nasir Babu, 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 '99 was inaugurated in Comilla by Whip of the Jatiya Sangsads 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 Molla, Director of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Nurul Islam, Deputy Director, Youth Development Directorate Amarur 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 Dhoali village in Mohammadpur thana of the district to avert clash among them, reports BSS. One of them, 19, daughter of Motaleb Karikar of the village had affairs and illicit relations with her neighbour Sirajul Islam, 30. On the night of July 20, Motaleb 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. Motaleb, Ajibar Molla 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 BSS.

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 BSS.

According to the police, four armed terrorists led by Kamrul Hassan of Biloynagar village in Kotwali thana forcibly entered the house of co-villager Zafar in the early hours of Saturday. They took out 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 Sayeed, 27, and Monirul Islam Moni.

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, Lakhat 38, Mdhupur 48, Nabiganj 44, Barisalchand 45, Ajmirganj 22 and habiganj sadar 36. eleven projects were implemented in habiganj Paurashava and one each in Nabiganj, Shaistaganj and Mdhupur Paurashavas. The work of the projects included repair of village roads, education institutions, mosques and temples and earth work in cemeteries 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 net work, reports BSS.

An official source said take 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, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, the source said. Three thanas of the district, Belaichhari, Borkal and Zorichari 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 Toshia jute and the rest under local varieties. Production target has been fixed at around 1,56,000 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

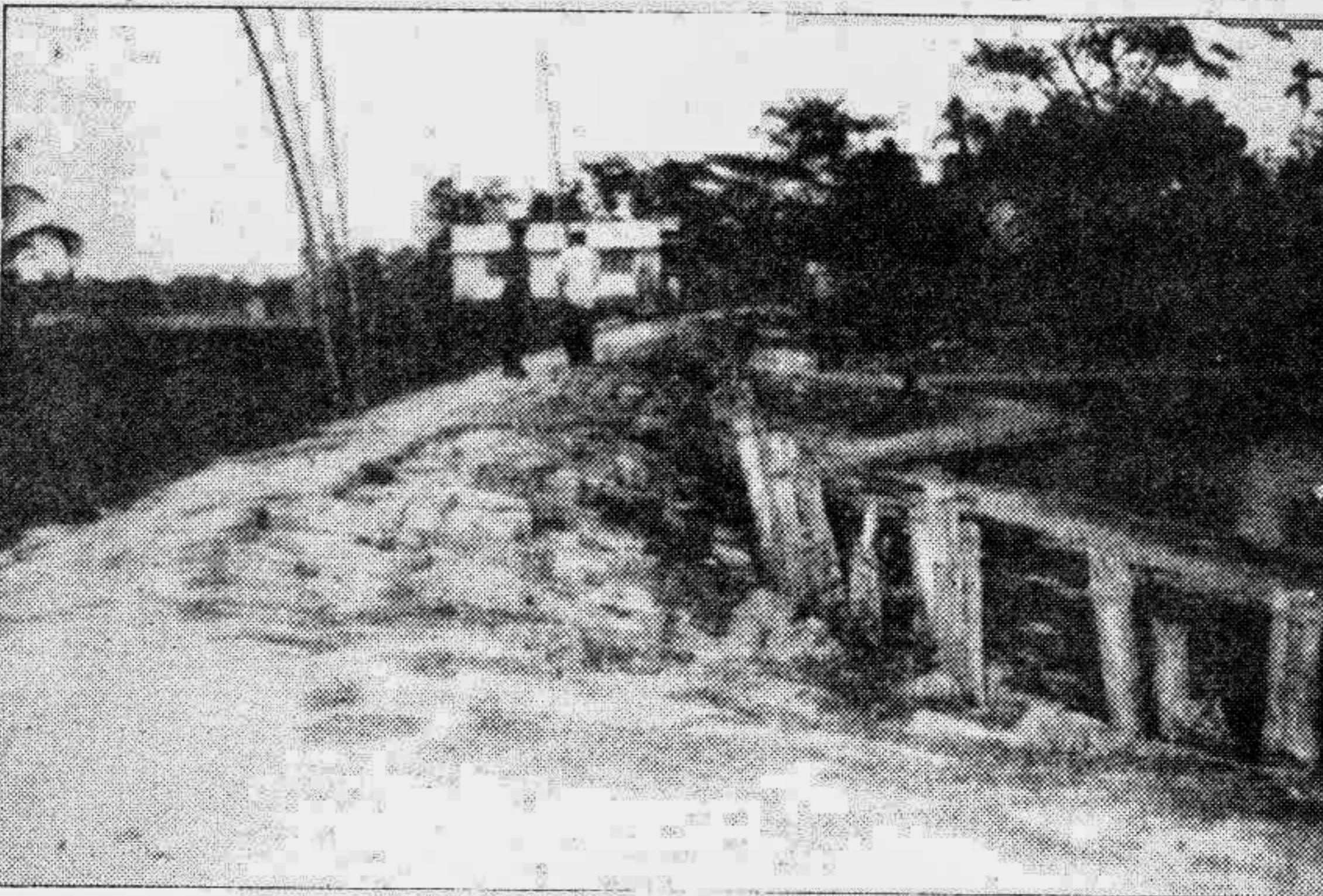
KISHOREGANJ, July 30: A total of 4568 tones of wheat have been allotted under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme in 13 thanas of the district, reports BSS.

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 Bhalrab, 65 tonnes against 180 in Hossainpur, 146 tonnes against 405 in Itna, 808 tonnes against 2244 in Karimganj, 508 tonnes against 1410 in Ktadi, 558 tonnes against 1551 in sadar, 540 tonnes against 1500 in Kullarchar, 363 tonnes against 1008 in Nikli, 108 tonnes against 300 in Pakundia, 464 tonnes against 1290 in Tarali and 69 tonnes against 180 in Mithamona 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 Damukdila 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



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

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 thana, 15,350 hectares for HYV and 30 hectares for local variety in Saitakupa thana, 16,870 hectares for HYV and 1,70 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 10,980 hectares for HYV and 30 hectares for local variety in Harinakundu thana will be brought under the cultivation.

Under the programme, at least 16,57,375 hectares will be cultivated with transplanted aman in these districts of them, told by a source of AED.

But lack of proper irrigation facility and pest attack may

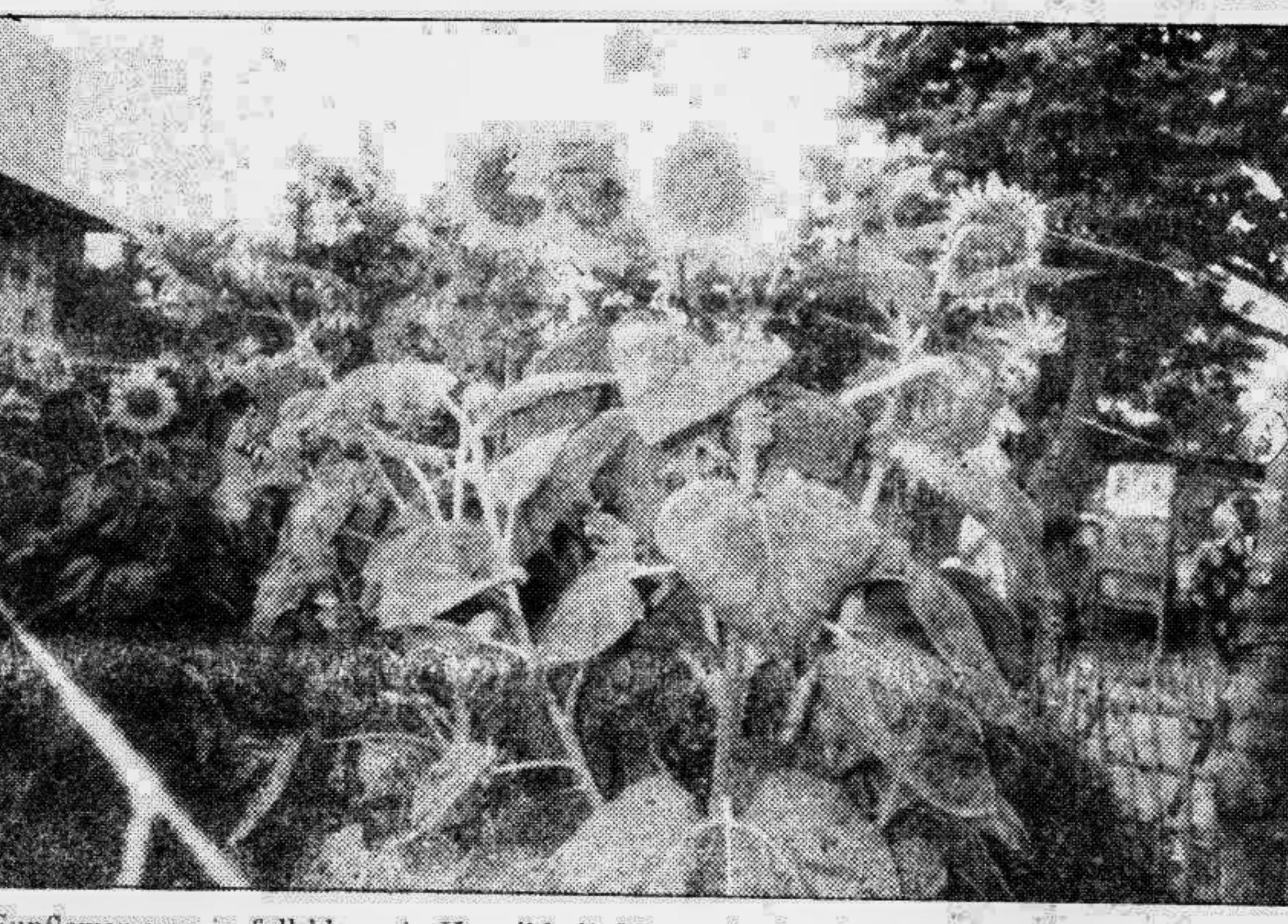
hamper the farming, farmers said.

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 *pani* pest. We are also suggesting the farmers to use pesticides and fertiliser in proper way.

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 Sarbarha 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 from 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.



WATER POLLUTION High quantum of arsenic in Gopalganj tubewells

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From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 30: A fake police inspector in front of the thana office in Nawhatia on July 28 evening.

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

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

Police sent him to court hearing.

Tension grips 5 villages of Narsingdi

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

Police and witnesses said supporters of Lal Miah of Hoglakandi village and Shaheed Miah of Kacharkandi 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, Zaukandi and Karaipur 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.

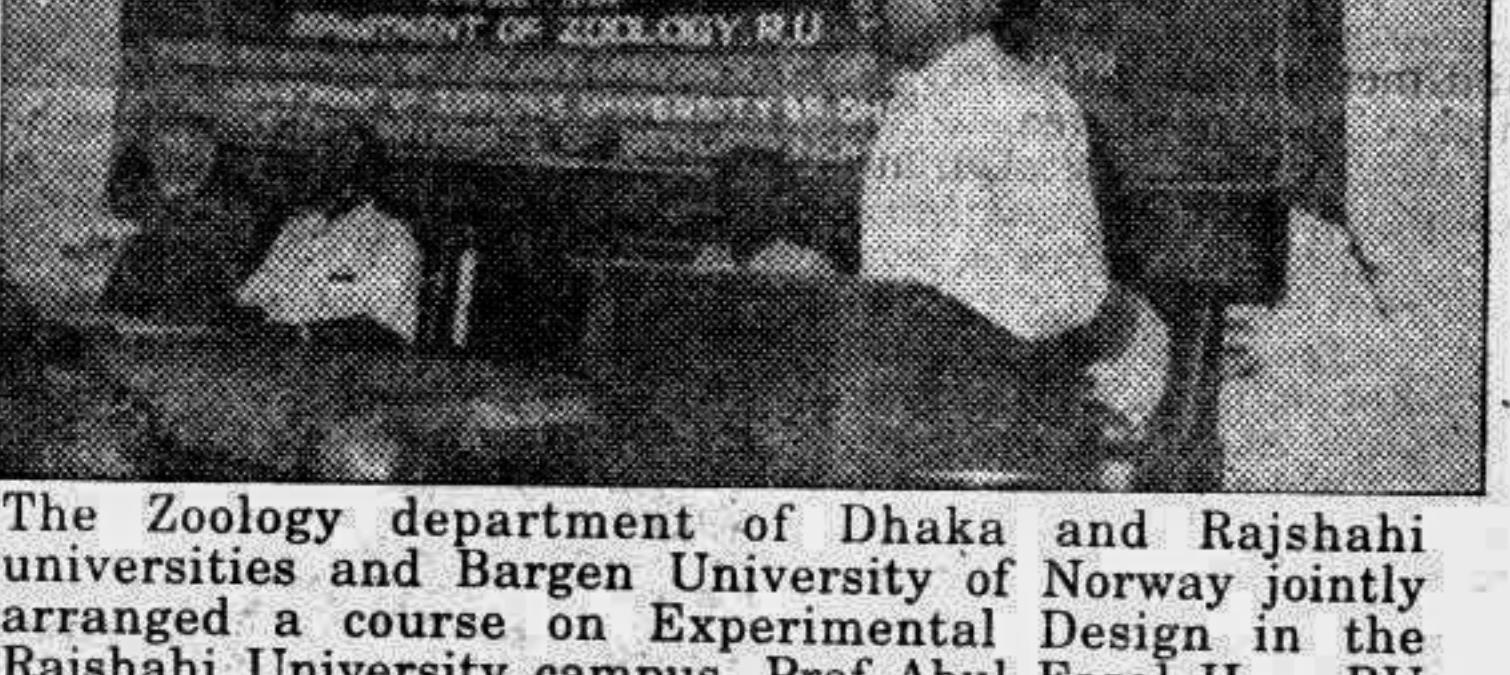
Naval Staff Course certificate awarding ceremony

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.



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



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 BSS.

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

They estimate that *aus*, *anjan* and *boro* crops worth Tk 160 crore are lost every year as waters submerge 50,00