

# News snaps

## Separate incidents claim two lives

**From Our Correspondent**  
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 4: Two persons died here in separate incidents recently.  
Police and hospital sources said, Dewan Mia, 18, son of Mola Mia of Village Zumpapur in Bajitpur thana committed suicide by taking poison recently. In another incident, an unidentified person aged about 45 was killed when he was hit by a Bhairab-bound passenger train at a place in between Nandail Road and Atharbari rail station on Mymensingh-Bhairab line on the same day.

## Arm, ammunition recovered

**From Our Correspondent**  
FARIDPUR, Aug 4: A foreign revolver and 10 rounds of ammunition were recovered recently by Kotwali police here.  
On a tip-off police raided the house of Sonu Mia at Bindapara Khidir Biswaser dangi in Tepakhola area on July 25. Police recovered those from the house after vigorous search and arrested Sonu Mia and Mithu. In another raid police arrested a terrorist named Hossain Khan of Alipur from Jhiltuly's Jutaparty area in the town and recovered a country made pipe gun and a dagger from his possession.

## Alleged rapist arrested

JHALAKATHI, Aug 4: A man was arrested here on Monday allegedly for raping a widow at a village in Sadar thana, reports UNB.  
Police said Bazlur Rahman was one of the two youths who raped the widow at her house at village Ramjankathi on Sunday night. His accomplice, Sarwar Mollah, was absconding.

## Man stabbed to death

SATKHIRA, Aug 4: An old man of Hajrakhal village under Tala thana of the district was allegedly stabbed to death by his nephew on July 26, reports BSS.  
Police and local people said the victim Kamruddin (65) was hit by his nephew Rajan with a crowbar. He died on his way to the Sadar Hospital.  
The accused has been arrested.

## BADC to procure Boro seeds

MEHERPUR, Aug 4: Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) will procure 9,062 metric tons of Boro seeds through 15 seeds processing centres of the country in the current season, reports BSS.  
According to an official source, the centres, located at Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jessore, Modhupur, Comilla, Etakhola, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Tebunia, Bogra, Rangpur, Faridpur, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Lakutia, will supply the seeds.

## Peasants' rally at Magura

MAGURA, Aug 4: Minister for Forest and Environment Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury urged the peasants to increase food production for making the country self-reliant, reports BSS.  
Speaking as the chief guest at a peasants' gathering organised by Magura District Kirsak League on Sunday, Sajeda said the government would always stand by the peasants.

## Educational meet in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 4: The Mousumi Competition, a competition on educational programme was held at local thana parishad auditorium recently with thana education officer Saidduzzaman in the chair, reports BSS.  
Assistant Commissioner (Land) Abu Bakar Siddique was the chief guest in the function. Students of different schools of Sadar thana participated in the competition. Prof AKM Harun-or-Rashid, Editor of the weekly Pen Bridge Prof Emdadul Haque and Sharmila Rani Roy were judges in the competition. The chief guest distributed prizes and certificates among the winners.

## Alleged forger arrested

TANGAIL, Aug 4: Tangail police arrested Rezaul Karim of village Utrail in Kaliahati thana, from the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Tangail on July 29, on charge of forgery, reports BSS.  
According to ADC (Rev) Faizur Rahman, Rezaul Karim came to his office with papers bearing forged signatures and seals of five ministers. The papers allegedly contained a forged reminder from the Ministry of Home for a free lease of Tallai beel to Rezaul as flood victim. Being challenged by the ADC (Rev) and magistrates Rezaul confessed about the forgery. He was handed over to Sadar thana police.

## Bumper output of Boro likley

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 4: The farmers of Brahmanbaria district are expecting a bumper production of Boro crops in the current season despite prolonged drought, according to local Agriculture Extension Department sources, reports BSS.  
A total of 91,965 hectares were brought under Boro cultivation. Of the total 87,296 hectares were brought under high yielding variety and 4,670 hectares under local variety. Official sources said, despite drought the supply of water for irrigation was regular except for short period. Ten to fifteen per cent of Boro plants were affected by the drought.

## Drive to encourage savings

BARISAL, Aug 4: Barisal District Savings Bureau earned Taka 23.16 crore as the sales proceeds of savings certificates of different denominations in the last fiscal year, reports BSS.  
According to an official source, the target was fixed at Taka 30 crore. The achievement was 77 per cent. This year drive has been given to encourage the people for more savings, the source said.

## Artistes boycotting radio programme

THAKURGAON, Aug 4: Artistes of local radio station have started boycotting its all programmes protesting the appointment of a third-grade artiste as producer, reports UNB.  
They alleged that the Ministry of Information was appointing incompetent candidates from outside the district to various posts of the local radio station despite their repeated complaints to the authorities concerned. They also accused the ministry of ignoring the applications of local eligible candidates to various posts of the station. The artistes warned that they would boycott all the local programmes to be produced by the station if the authorities failed to take appropriate steps in this regard.

## Uplift schemes completed

RAJBARI, Aug 4: The district council implemented nine schemes spending Tk 90 lakh under annual development programme during the last fiscal, reports UNB.  
The projects included construction and reconstruction of roads, construction of passenger shades and renovation of bungalows.

## Fisheries Week observed

NAOGOAN, Aug 4: Fisheries Week '99 was observed in different thana and district headquarters here from July 25 to 31, reports BSS.  
The week was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Md Lutfar Rahman by releasing fish fries in a government pond here. A discussion was held on the occasion in the sadar thana parishad auditorium with district fisheries officer AKM Akhtar Hossain in the chair. Deputy director of Agriculture Extension Department AKM Anwarul Islam, deputy civil surgeon Dr ATM Shahjahan Ali and Thana Nirbahi Officer, sadar Munshi Iqbal Hossain, among others, took part in the discussion on the significance of the observance of the day.

## Unidentified man dies in hospital

MADARIPUR, Aug 4: An unidentified old man, believed to have taken poisonous food from an unknown bus passenger, died at sadar hospital early Monday, reports UNB.  
Hospital sources said some bus workers brought the man to the hospital and he died there after admission. The body was taken to hospital morgue for autopsy.

## 60 physicians to be recruited

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 4: Dogged by inadequate doctors and treatment facilities, the district council is going to recruit 60 physicians in hospitals of the district soon, reports UNB.  
According to a competent source, 60 MBBS doctors will be appointed on ad hoc basis and establishment ministry has already approved a proposal in this regard. The proposal now awaits the final approval from the Prime Minister's office, he said. In recruitment, he said, candidates of the district would get preference. "We will select candidates from other districts in case of non-availability of local aspirants," he said wishing anonymity.

# Adulterated spice, medicine

# A threat to public health

By Staff correspondent

Adulterated powdered spices and date expired medicines are being sold openly in almost all the hats and bazaars of Natore and Gopalganj districts.

**Our Natore Correspondent says:** Adulterated spices are on open sale in the entire district in recent time posing a threat to public health.

According to physicians of government hospitals, hundreds of people, mostly children, are getting attacked with various intestinal diseases consuming such spices, mixed with various powdered colours. These spices, available in colourful and attractive packets, do not have the approval of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI).

The demand for powdered spices has gone up remarkably now-a-days. Some unscrupulous traders and businessmen have been taking advantage of

the increased demand. These are available in packets of 50 grams to half kilogram.

There are even allegations that crushed bricks are being mixed with powdered dry chillies. Unscrupulous traders are procuring powder colours for mixing them with spices. They sell it at lower prices which is not possible in case of pure ones.

Physicians said, most of the patients complaining with intestinal troubles were found suffering due mainly after consuming food made with such spices.

The concerned authorities, however, have not taken actions to curb such criminal activities against the manufacturers and sellers of spurious spices, consumers alleged.

**Our Gopalganj correspondent says:** Adulterated and date

expired medicines are being sold in open markets of five thanas including remote areas in the district.

A group of dishonest businessmen are involved in this business and cheating the innocent people. Moreover, people are becoming victims of new diseases after taking these medicines.

According to a survey, a group of pharmacy owners, quacks and some so-called pharmaceutical companies are involved in this business. They are selling their medicines in the market with label of renowned companies to make a windfall profit. Quacks and pharmacists are purchasing these drugs at 50 per cent commission.

The law enforcing agencies are not taking steps to curb the menace, it is widely allged.



**Will dream come true?** : Natore farmers sowing transplanted Aman paddy with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. Being inspired by last year's bumper production of Boro crops, they are striving hard in the hope of a good yield this season also. Hopefully weather has favoured them so far. —Star photo by Anwar Ali

# Woes of Gram Policemen

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, Aug 4: The members of 'Gram Police' play an important role in maintaining the law and order in the rural areas.

Usually they serve the union parishad chairmen and members just like servants. They also work in rough weather like storm and rain in exchange of a small amount of money, which is not enough to maintain their family even for a week.

It may be mentioned in this connection, nine gram policemen work in each union parishad of the country. Among the nine, there is a leader called 'dafadar' and the rest are 'chawkidars'. A 'dafadar' gets one thousand taka and a 'chawkidar' gets seven hundred taka per month as salary. Government and union council are equal contributors of their salaries. But the portion of their salaries which is paid by the concerned union council is the main cause behind their sufferings. This is because the union council authority is very often indifferent to pay their salaries. As a result the gram policemen are being deprived of their salaries.

According to the opinion of



**Suffering deprivation:** Grim faces of some Gram Policemen.

the members of 'gram police', their income is lesser than that of a day labourer. Even a street beggar is more well-off than a 'gram police'. They also opined that despite living in a miserable condition, they are getting deprived of sympathy of the union council authorities.

Moreover, they are com-

pelled to do work like washing, marketing and planting in the houses of union parishad chairmen and members. But they are not getting any additional benefit for such work.

The government must come forward to lessen their distresses.

# Life term for three killers

By Staff Correspondent

Three murderers were awarded life term imprisonment by the District and Sessions Judges of Madaripur and Sunamganj recently.

BSS from Madaripur says: District and Sessions Judge, Madaripur, Alhaj Md Matiur Rahman awarded life imprisonment to Nepolian Khandoker and Nurul Huque Bepari of village Bahadarpur under sadar thana recently on charge of murder.

The judge after hearing both the sides in the case convicted the accused for the murder and gave the verdict. Nine other accused in the case were acquitted of the charge.

The case in brief is that the

accused persons killed Fagu Matbar, 50, of the same village on November 6, 1995.

UNB from Sunamganj reports: The district court has convicted and sentenced to jail for life in absentia and fined Tk 1000 for killing a saloon owner in the town in June, 1993.

After examining 20 witnesses during the lengthy trial, the judge found Zishu Chandra Shil guilty of killing Arabinda by a sharp knife as a sequel of quarrel over an umbrella.

He stabbed Arabinda on the back near Sholaghar and the victim was declared dead when taken to the local hospital.

Another report says: A district court in Sunamganj on

Tuesday acquitted all the eight accused in a case of sensational murder of a school student in 1993.

Saiful Islam, a SSC examinee from Tahipur Government School, was killed on February 17, 1993 by his rivals over previous quarrel.

On investigation into the murder, police submitted charge-sheet accusing Nurul Haq, Jalal Ahmed, Jasim Uddin, Sohel, Azad Mia, Kaoser, Russel and Zillur.

Additional District and Sessions Judge, Shah Alam Chowdhury acquitted all the accused after examining 10 prosecution witnesses.



**Unrequited anger:** The River Padma has devoured hundreds of acres of land including homesteads in Baragharia of Chapainabganj district with the onset of the rainy season. —Star photo

# House wife killed after rape

THAKURGAON, Aug 4: Unidentified miscreants raped and killed a young housewife at Mahazanpara in Baliadangi thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Azifa Khatun, 18, wife of Mujibur Rahman of Singla village. Police said four culprits picked up Azifa from Mahazanpara while she was returning home along with her husband after enjoying a movie in Baliadangi at night.

They took Azifa to a desolate spot and stabbed her to death after gang rape. They also stabbed Mujibur when he tried to resist them. He was admitted to Baliadangi Thana Health Complex.

Another report adds: A young housewife was strangled to death allegedly by her husband at Jagadal village in Ralisankail thana on Tuesday.

Police said Noor Mohammad married Banesa Begum, 20, on July 2 this year and he used to pick up quarrels with his wife as he could not like her since their marriage.

On the fateful day, Noor took her to Kulik rivers at Kashipur and strangled her to death, police said.

Police arrested Noor and Khalilur Rahman in this connection.

# Fruit processing plant in Moulvibazar sought

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 4: Orchard owners and fruit vendors are being deprived of a fair return from the huge seasonal production due to lack of proper transportation system, preservation and processing facilities, reports UNB.

According to official sources, pineapple are cultivated on 15,000 acres of high land, jack-fruit on 5,000 acres and lemon on 4,000 acres in Srimangol, Koolganj, Rajnagar, Kulaura, Borolekha and Sadar thanas. The total production in the district each year is worth Tk 5 crore, they said.

But, after harvesting, the growers are unable to bring their produce quickly even to the local markets. "Particularly in the rainy season, fruits get rotten quickly if not kept in the cold storage," said a grower here.

So, we are forced to sell our products in the garden at throw-away prices incurring huge loss, he added.

People have been demanding for long establishment of fruit processing and preservation plants.

Experts said the government could earn huge amount of foreign currency by exporting fruit products from the district.

# Nine pirates held while fleeing with booty from launch

CHANDPUR, Aug 4: Police caught nine alleged pirates along with five firearms and ammunition from Kachikata in Louhajong thana in Munshiganj district while they were fleeing after looting the passengers of a launch here on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Police said the pirates numbering about 20-25 boarding on an engine-driven boat entered the Bholabound launch MV Bakhtiar when it reached at Mohonpur of the district at about 11 pm.

They looted the valuables of the passengers after holding hostages of the Ansars of the launch.

Louhajong thana police recovered five guns and 10 rounds of bullet from their possession. A case was filed with Louhajong police in this connection.

# Two jailed for possessing illegal arms

COMILLA, Aug 4: A district court has convicted and sentenced two young men to 7 to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possession of illegal arms, reports UNB.

Rahman Ali was awarded 10 years and Asgar 7 years to jail in the verdict pronounced on Monday. The court acquitted four others in the case.

In a similar attack on July 16, the hooligans damaged the car of the lawmaker in front of his house at the centre of the town.

Police arrested a man after a case was filed in connection with damaging of the car. However, none was arrested after the second attack.

# Widows, divorcees get allowances at Dhamrai

DHAMRAI, Aug 4: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak said here on Saturday that poverty alleviation was the prime objective of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

He was distribution allowances among the widows and divorced women at a function organised by Social Welfare Department at Dhamrai Thana Parishad.

The Minister gave away 45 thousand taka among 45 widows and divorced women on the occasion. The government sanctioned 1.44 lakh taka for distribution among 1440 widows and divorced women of 16 unions of the thana for 1998-99 fiscal.

Razzak said provision of allowance for the old, widows and divorced women was rare in the sub-continent. He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working relentlessly for bringing smiles on the faces of the teeming millions.

# Events of districts in picture



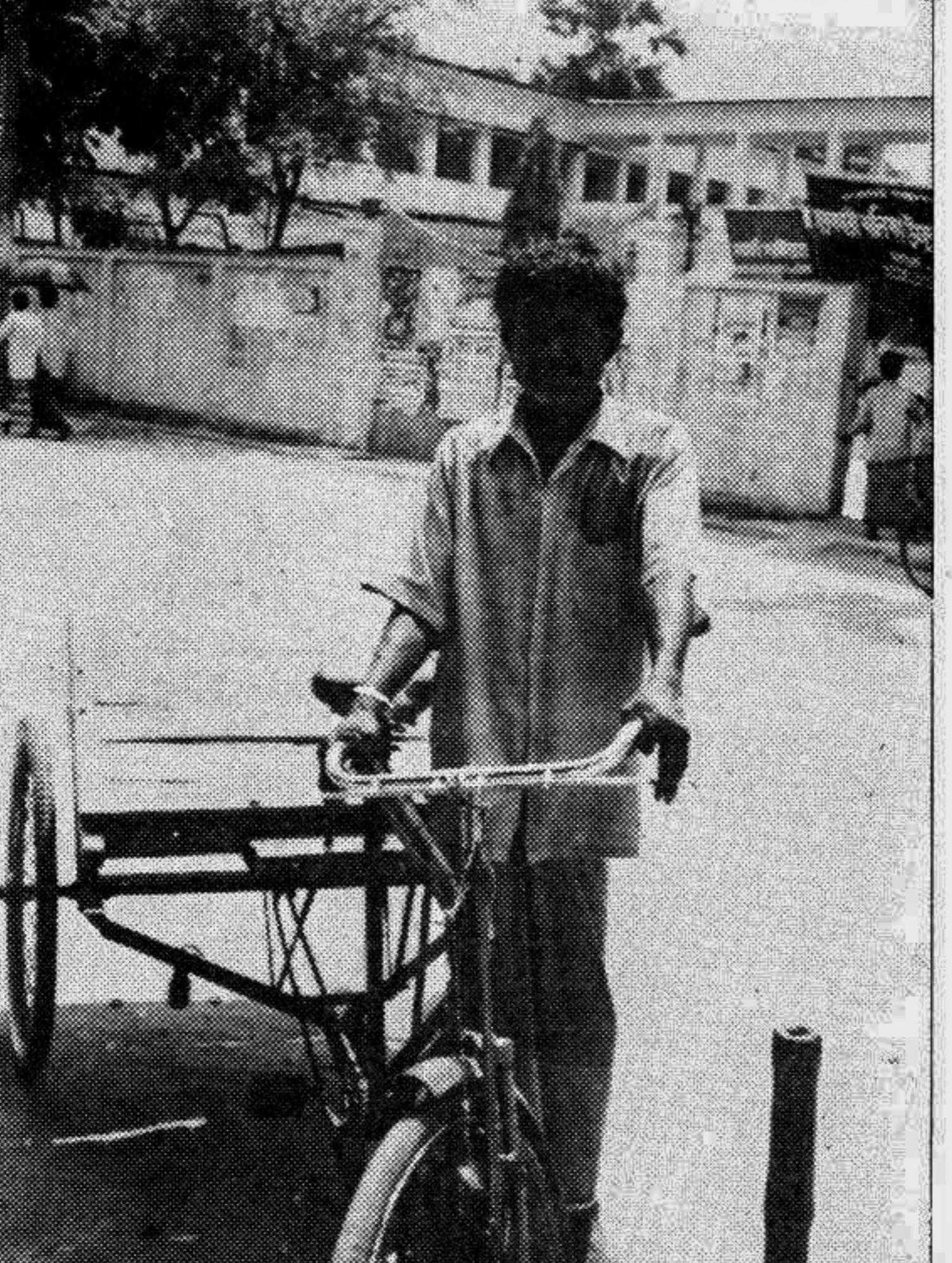
**Welfare programme:** Deputy Director of Natore Islamic Foundation distributing goats among the hapless women of rural areas as part of its poverty alleviation programme. —Star photo



**Installation ceremony:** of the newly elected office-bearers of Rajshahi unit of Bangladesh Hardware Merchants Association was held recently at Rajshahi tennis complex conference room. Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farooque Chowdhury was the chief guest. Saiful Islam Khan, member (admin) of National Board of Revenue, M H Rahman, president of DCCI, Forest E Cookson, president of American Chamber of Commerce and Khan Shabuddin, Divisional commissioner of Rajshahi were special guests. —Star photo



**The civil surgeon of Barisal speaking at the ORTC meeting recently.** —Star photo



**Irony of fate:** Ahmed Hossain, who was once a freedom fighter, now a rickshaw van puller. —Star photo



**Routine affair:** The electric pole in the middle of a road in Saikupa Municipality of Jhenidah district is PDB's idea of development. —Star photo