

News snaps

Life term for three rapists

JAMALPUR, Aug 6: Three people were sentenced to life term in jail by a court here recently for raping a woman in Sadar thana last year, reports UNB.

The convicts were identified as Sujon, Farid and Ekabor. According to prosecution, the accused picked up a woman of Chhoniata village from Doilpara while she was returning home from her sister's house in the evening and raped her in an abandoned house. After examining witnesses and records, the District and Sessions Judge found Sujon, Farid and Ekabor guilty of rape and handed down the judgement.

Valuables looted

KHULNA, Aug 6: A robbery was committed in a passenger bus in Satkhira district recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of armed robbers, numbering 7-8, on board a microbus intercepted the Khulna-bound bus from Satkhira, a few kilometres from Satkhira town. Boarding the bus, they started beating the passengers leaving four of them injured. The robbers decamped after looting cash and valuables worth about Taka 10 lakh from several traders travelling by the bus. They stabbed a passenger while leaving the spot.

Influenza, viral fever in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, Aug 6: Influenza and viral fever have broken out in the district affecting a large number of people, reports BSS.

According to local people and physicians, poor people and the slum-dwellers are the worst sufferers due to influenza during these rainy days. Almost every family has one or two patients suffering from viral fever, local people said.

Body recovered

JHALAKATI, Aug 6: Police recovered the body of a young man from Lebununia area in Rajapur thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdul Khaleque, 35, son of Abdul Malek Howlader of Tarabunia. The cause behind the death could not be known.

Training on breast feeding

COMILLA, Aug 6: A day long orientation training course on breast feeding system was held separately at Chandina and Debdwar thana headquarters on Sunday, reports BSS.

Organised by district health department, the courses were inaugurated by Dr Mukhlesur Rahman, Civil Surgeon, Comilla. Forty thana health officers, medical officers, physicians and family planning visitors participated in the training courses.

Workshop on fish farming

SATKHIRA, Aug 6: A day-long workshop on fish farming on the occasion of Fisheries Week-99 was held at thana rural development board auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Satkhira Sadar Thana Fisheries Department organised the workshop. Thana Fisheries officer Abu Bakar Siddique and Extension Officer Taufiqul Islam were trainers in the workshop. About 60 unemployed youths, both male and female, Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) members participated in the workshop.

Birth centenary of Nazrul

NATORE, Aug 6: Natore Sangeet Bidyalaya organised various programmes including Nazrul songs competition recently to mark the birth centenary of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, reports BSS.

The prize distribution ceremony of the Nazrul Sangeet competition was held last week at Natore Sangeet Bidyalaya premises. Fifty artistes in four groups participated in the competition. Deputy Commissioner (DC), Natore, Mohammad Ishaq Bhuiya distributed prizes among the artistes. The function was followed by a musical soiree.

Stipends distributed

CHANDPUR, Aug 6: Chandpur Foundation distributed stipends to 54 meritorious students at a function held in Chandpur Press Club auditorium recently, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner M Rezaul Karim was present on the occasion as the chief guest and handed over cheques to the students. The function was presided over by Dr M A Gafur, secretary of the foundation Principal Motiur Rahman, former president of Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries Alhaj Jahangir Akhand Selim and press club president Md Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, among others, spoke on the occasion. Stipends amounting to Taka 1,68,860 were distributed among 54 students.



Civil Surgeon of Barisal giving away certificate to a participant of a training programme on primary mental health at Uzirpur thana health complex. — Star photo

17 uplift schemes implemented

CHUADANGA, Aug 6: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under its Rural Development Programme (RDP)-18 has implemented 17 schemes in three out of four thanas of the district in the 1998-1999 fiscal year, reports BSS.

LGED sources said, the government sanctioned Taka 1,07,22,000 for execution of the schemes in Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga and Jibannagar thana. Four schemes were implemented in Chuadanga sadar, 12 schemes in Alamdanga and one scheme in Jibannagar.

Jute farming on 8,550 hectares

CHUADANGA, Aug 6: A total of 8,550 hectares have been brought under jute cultivation in all the four thanas here this year, but the target was fixed at 10,000 hectares by the agriculture department, reports BSS.

According to an official sources, jute has been cultivated on 1,795 hectares in Chuadanga sadar thana, 2,980 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 3,140 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 635 hectares in Jibannagar thana. Production target has been fixed at 8,000 bales of jute in the current season.

Seminar on shrimp culture

KHULNA, Aug 6: A day long seminar on problems and prospects of shrimp cultivation was held here recently, reports UNB.

Prof Dr Muhammad Saifuddin Shah, head of Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Department of Khulna University presented the key-note paper in the seminar, marking the Fisheries Week. Chaired by Akhter Ali, Deputy Director of Fisheries Directorate, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Advocate Sheikh Nurul Huq MP, and Rezaul Karim. Over 100 shrimp farmers, traders, shrimp food producers, officials and Non-governmental Organisations (NGO) representatives attended the seminar.

HR commission of Nandail unit

MYMENSINGH, Aug 6: Human Rights (HR) Commission, Nandail Pourasabha unit has been formed at a meeting of a cross section of people recently, reports UNB.

Elas Uddin Fakir Ranju presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Advocate Iqbal Akhand, Prof Ishaq Mahmud, Advocate Abul Mansur, poura commissioner Noor-e-Alam Siddiqui, Kazi Humayun Kabir, Dr Sharafat Ali and Shaiful Islam Shamim. The meeting called upon the people to be aware of their fundamental rights. BSS

Man, son killed by rivals

JHENIDAH, Aug 6: A middle-aged man and his son were killed by their rivals at Bhagabannagar village in sadar thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Ebadat Hossain, 40, and his son Lincoln, 20. Witnesses said Ebadat's rivals hit him and his son with sharp weapons when they were making a drain to remove water from their land. Lincoln died on the spot while his father died on way to hospital.

Seed crisis hampers Aman cultivation in Jessore

Mymensingh farmers losing interest in Aus farming

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 6: The cultivation of Aus paddy, which was once called a 'crisis food', is now gradually decreasing here, official sources said.

According to District Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, in 1997 a total of 1,21,500 hectares of land were brought under Aus cultivation in 12 thanas here, but in 1998 the figure came down to 1,06,000 hectares following various reasons.

This year AED brought 91,159 hectares of land under Aus cultivation here with a production target of 1,37,477 metric tons of paddy. Aus cultivation target now has come down in comparison with the figures of the last 10 years.

When asked why the cultivation is coming down day by day, an official of the agriculture department told The Daily Star regarding fall in production, Helal Miah a farmer of village Naogoan in Phulbaria thana he told that due to long drought they cultivated Aus later on which will bring a poor production. He also said that many lands were also abandoned due to scarcity of seeds. Some other farmers also echoed the tone of Helal.

AED also took up Aus cultivation programme in four other districts of greater Mymensingh region.

The official sources said, 9,239 hectares of land were brought under Aus cultivation with a production target of 10,021 MT in Jamalpur, 20,770 hectares with a production target of 25,347 MT in Sherpur, 42,352 hectares with a production target of 53,498 MT in Netrakona and 32,316 hectares of land with a production target of 43,111 MT of Aus paddy in

Nandail with a production of target 13,720 MT, 6,500 hectares in Gouripur with a production target of 8,540 MT, 7,000 hectares in Phulpur with a production target of 8,560 MT, 9,500 hectares in Iswarganj with a production target of 13,720 MT, 5,159 hectares in Haluaghata with a production target of 7,077 MT and 4,000 hectares in Dubaura thana with a production target of 6,600 MT of Aus paddy.

When asked by The Daily Star regarding fall in production, Helal Miah a farmer of village Naogoan in Phulbaria thana he told that due to long drought they cultivated Aus later on which will bring a poor production. He also said that many lands were also abandoned due to scarcity of seeds. Some other farmers also echoed the tone of Helal.

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Mts of paddy. Of the total 1,43,200 hectares under HYV and 1,19,080 hectares under local variety.

A total of 59,596 hectares of land will be cultivated in the seven thanas of Jessore district with a production target of 1,00,848 MTs, 8,4070 hectares in Sherpur district with a production target of 1,49,634 MTs in 11 thanas of Netrakona district, 1,08,250 hectares of land will be taken with a production target of 1,72,896 MTs while 60,720 hectares of land will be cultivated in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district fixing a production target of 1,09,684 MTs of Aman paddy said the sources.

The sources added that more lands would be brought under Aus cultivation.

In Mymensingh district

more lands will be brought under Aus cultivation in comparison with the last year. Last year, a total of 2,57,300 hectares of land were brought under Aus cultivation, but this year a total of 2,62,230 hectares of land would be cultivated which is 4,930 hectares more than that of the last year.

Our Jessore correspondent says: Aman cultivation has every chance of being hampered in 10 district of Khulna division during the current season following the crisis of seeds and fertilisers. As such the

Block supervisors and field workers of the Agriculture Department in rural areas, are reportedly advising the farmers to procure seeds from outside and not to depend on BADC.

When contacted a group of farmers told this correspondent that Aman cultivation was extensively damaged in the unprecedented floods last year and they don't have seeds in their stock.

They expressed apprehension

and told that if the seed-crisis continues, the cultivation of Aman will fall short of target this year.

When contacted Assistant store keeper of BADC, Jessore told that the demand of Aman seeds was huge but the stock positions had been too limited.

BSS from Chaudanga reports: A total of 33,300 hectares will be brought under transplanted Aman paddy cultivation in all the four thanas here in the current cultivation season.

The four thanas are Chaudanga thana, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

According to an official source, of the total land 7,125 hectares will be brought under cultivation in Chaudanga thana, 12,675 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 7,600 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 5,900 hectares in Jibannagar thana.

The production target of transplanted Aman paddy in the current season has been fixed at 1,10,000 metric tons.

The cultivation work of transplanted Aman paddy of the current season in Chaudanga district has begun and expected to be completed by the current month.

Another report from Chhaganj in Feni district says: Transplanted Aman paddy has been cultivated on 9,530 hectares in Chhaganj Naiva thana under Feni district in the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 8,360 hectares have been brought under high yielding variety and 1,200 hectares under local varieties of Aman.

Production target has been fixed at 28,000 tonnes of paddy. Improved variety seeds, fertilisers and other inputs were supplied to the growers by the government to achieve the target.

Despite clear instruction from the government that the

prospect of Aman cultivation is bleak.

According to a source of local regional office of Agriculture Extension Department, the target in these 10 districts including Jessore, Jhenidah, Netrakona, and Meherpur was fixed at 6,95,000 hectares of land.

To attain the target, seeds worth 2,78,00,000 KG (kilograms) will be needed.

But the supply position is quite disappointing.

According to another source, the government has allocated seeds worth 13,90,000 kgs only against the required quantity. It is only five per cent of the total requirement, said the source.

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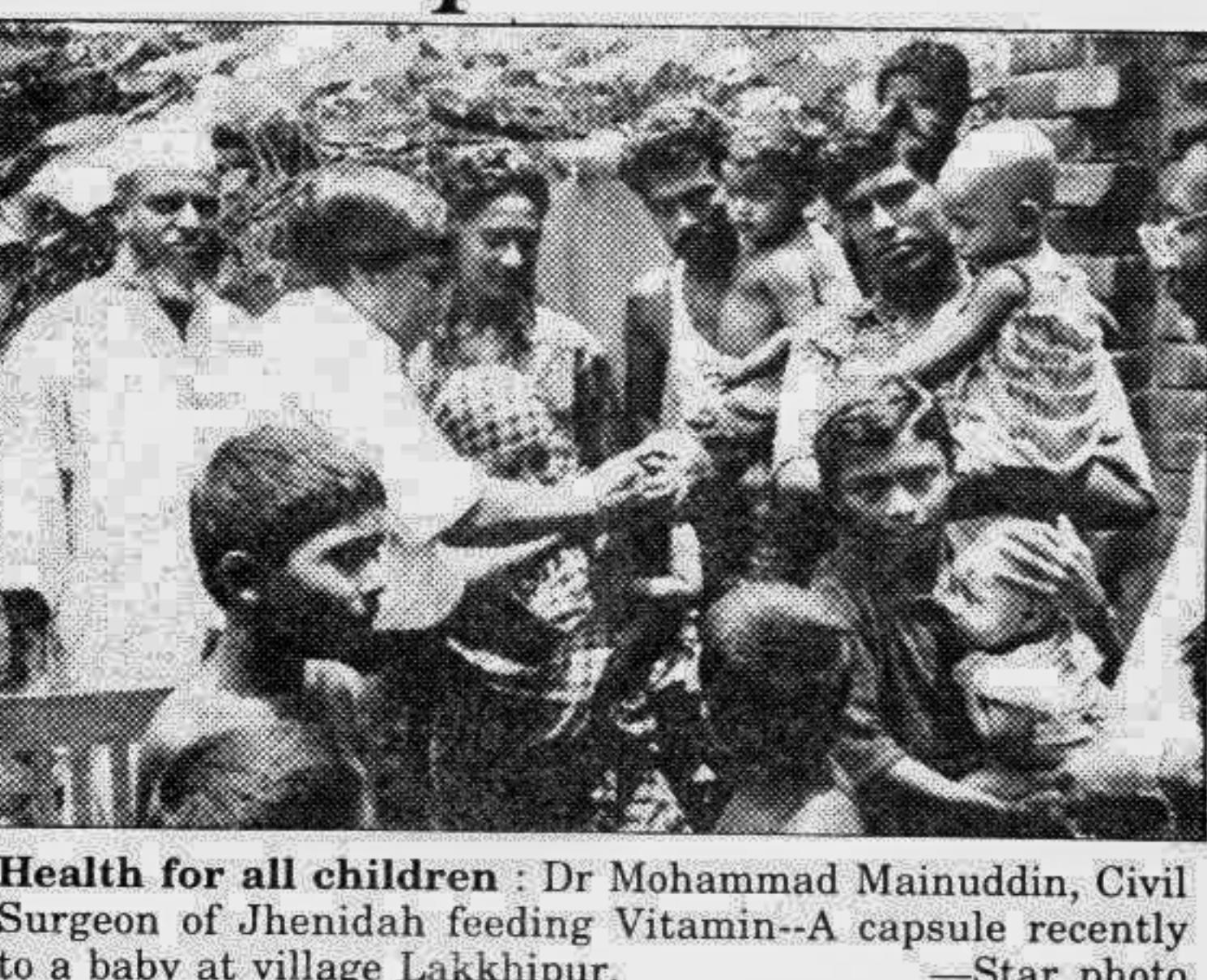
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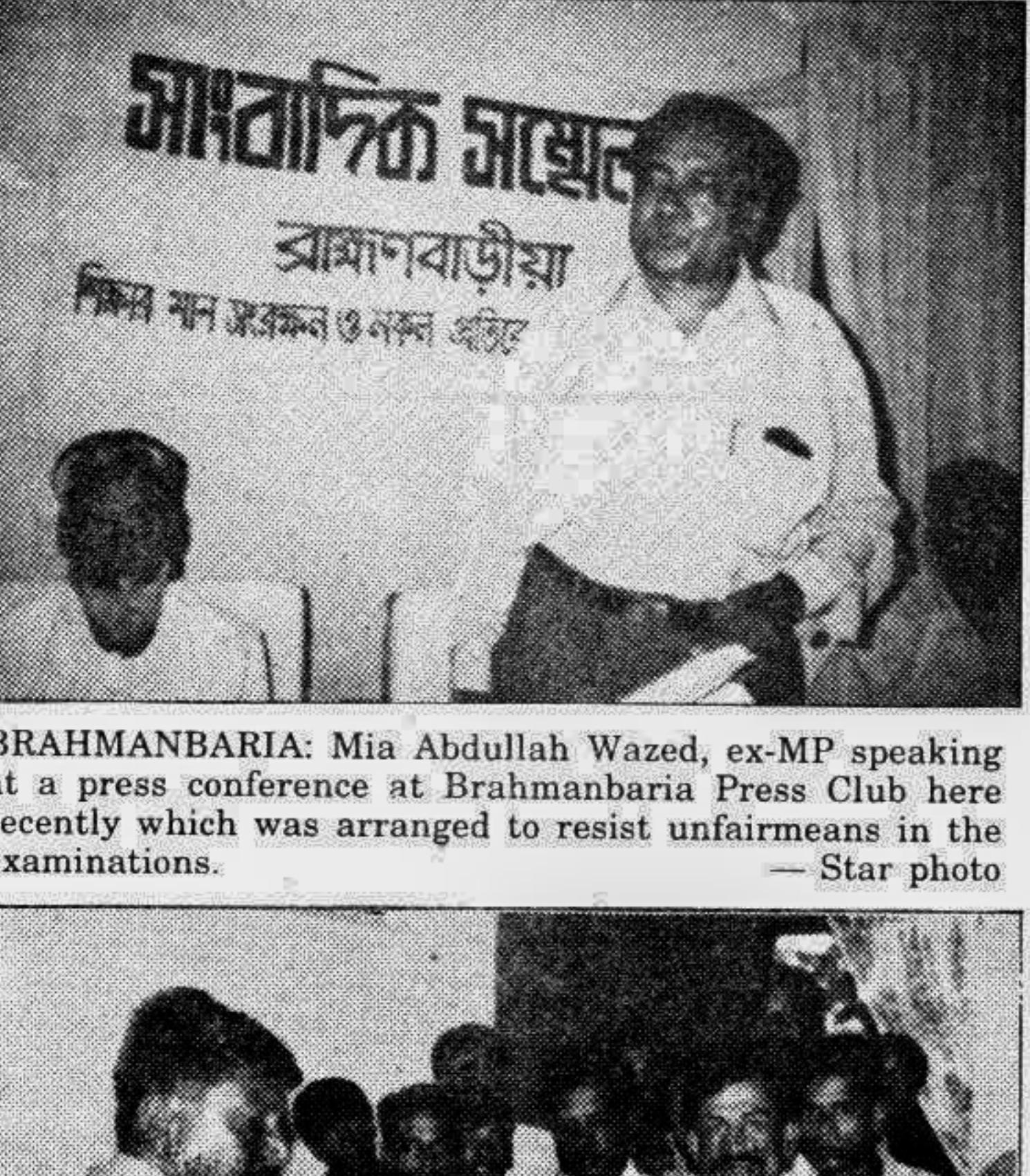
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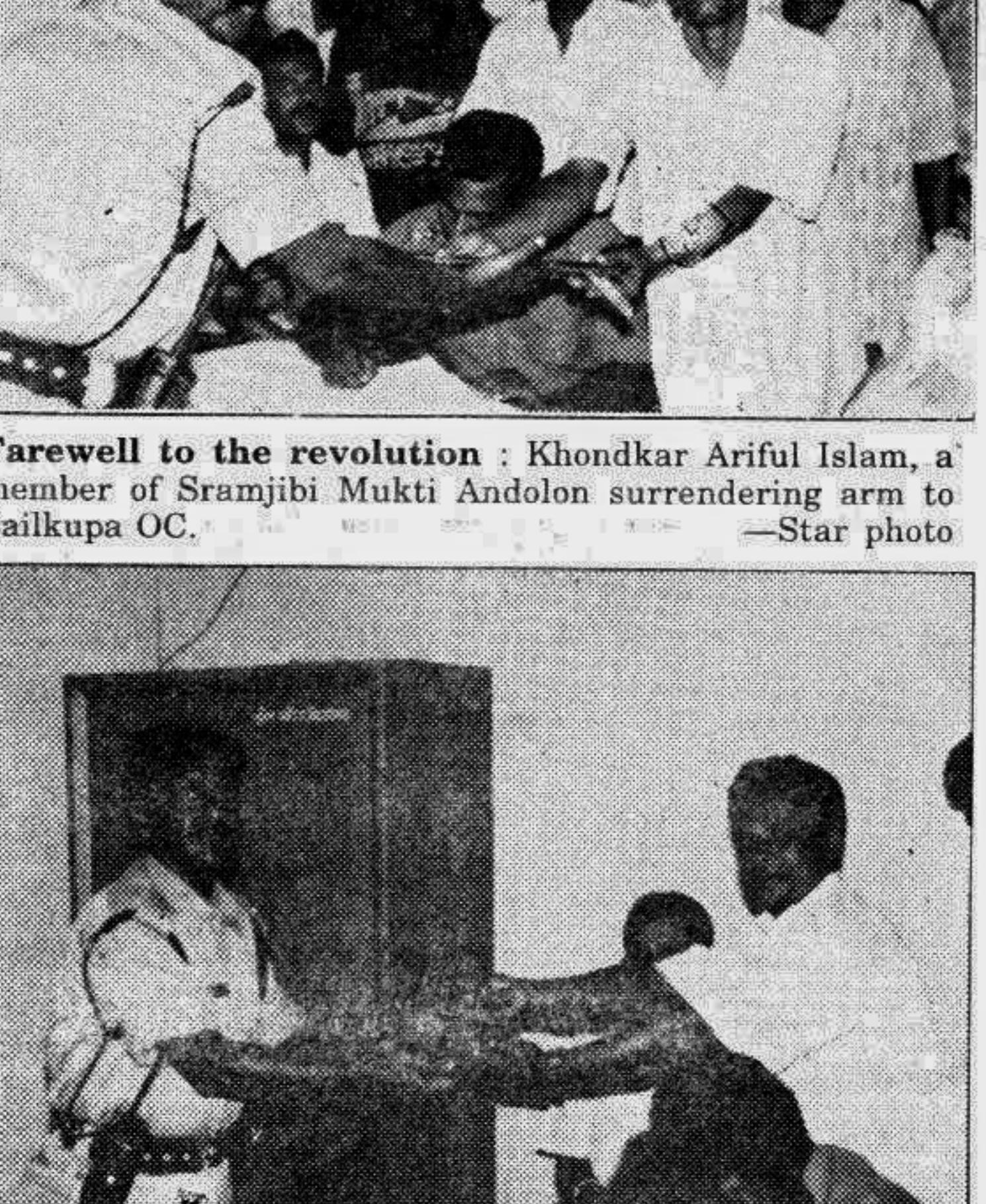
Events of districts in picture



Health for all children : Dr Mohammad Mainuddin, Civil Surgeon of Jhenidah feeding Vitamin-A capsule recently to a baby at village Lakkhipur. — Star photo



BRAHMANBARIA: Mia Abdullah Wazed, ex-MP speaking at a press conference at Brahmanbaria Press Club here recently which was arranged to resist unfair means in the examinations. — Star photo



Return of the son : Liakat Ali, an activist of outlawed Biplabi Communist Party surrendering his arm recently to the Saikupura OC. — Star photo



New hope for growers: Plenty of