

Unhealthy Environment

KURIGRAM, Aug 16: About 25,000 workers, including children and women, engaged in tobacco factories in the northern region have been suffering from respiratory and other complications, reports UNB.

Medical source said the poor workers in more than 100 tobacco factories in the region work in unwholesome environment. Many of them have been suffering from respiratory problem, lung complications, TB and ulcers. The female workers are also suffering from

gynecological diseases.

In Rangpur district, more than one lakh people are directly or indirectly involved in about 100 tobacco factories. There are two tobacco factories in Kurigram.

Besides, there are about 200 organs of tobacco factories from where the workers collect tobacco and supply those to the factories.

Sources said although there is a rule for health test of industrial workers in every three months, it is never followed by

the tobacco factories.

While visiting a bidi factory in the district, 75 workers out of 270 complained that they were suffering from various respiratory and skin diseases.

They used to earn Tk 20 to 30 per day which is not enough to procure two square meals. They can't buy medicine or pay the doctor from the poor income.

Country's most bidi factories are located at Haragach of Rangpur district. Each of the factories produce 50 lakh to one crore bidis per day.

RU AC session tomorrow

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Aug 16: The Academic Council (AC) session of the university will be held on August 18.

The Academic Council is going to sit after about eleven months. The last session was held in June last year.

The AC is to take a number of decisions regarding promotion of teachers and approval of Ph D and M Phil degrees.

The AC will also take decision regarding results of 11 master's students of Library and Information Science Department, sources said.

198,117 children take vitamin-A capsules

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 16: A total of 198,117 children were fed vitamin-A capsules in the district during 'Vitamin-A Week' that ended on July 6, Civil Surgeon office sources said.

Sources, however, said authorities had fixed the target to feed vitamin-A capsules to 171,092 children in six thanas and 21,880 in five municipalities under the district.

In Jhenidah sadar thana 43,2020 children and another 9,568 in the municipal area were fed capsules. 32,997 children in Salkupara thana and another 3,242 in the municipal area were given the dose.

While 20,234 children in Harinakundu thana, 27,328 children in Kaliganj thana; 4,892 in Kaliganj municipal area; 13,319 in Kotchandpur thana; 4,617 in Kotchandpur municipality and 38,718 in Mohespur thana were fed vitamin-A capsules during the week.

Civil Surgeon office sources said, the programme was implemented through 1,700 centres.

Tk 20.55 cr BKB loans realised in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Aug 16: Bangladesh Krishibank (BKB) realised Tk 20.55 crore outstanding loans during the 1998-99 fiscal year in the district.

In the previous 1997-98 fiscal year the bank realised Tk 9.52 crore outstanding loans.

AGM of BKB, Netrakona Md Nurul Amin said Tk 23.81 crore was disbursed among the farmers for cultivation of crops and Tk 10.47 crore for poultry and pisciculture in '98-99.

Moulvibazar BPUP biennial confce held

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 16: The biennial conference of Moulvibazar district unit of Bangladesh Puja Uddyan Parishad (BPUP) was held in a local temple, Natun Kali Bari, premises recently.

Rodhika Mohan Goswami, central vice president of the BPUP and Moulvibazar district unit president, presided over the conference, which was attended by representatives from all the six thana units of the district.

The Hindu community leaders in the conference expressed their concern over the increasing theft incidents in temples across the country.

They said local administration kept silent regarding theft of valuable statues.

They also protested the recent initiatives taken by the government to bring amendment to the Hindu personal law.

A 51-member committee for BPUP, Moulvibazar district unit was elected in the conference. Radhika Mohan Goswami and Nihir Kanta Deb Mintu were made President and General Secretary respectively.

College after Syed Nazrul Islam

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 16: An intermediate college with science, arts and commerce has been established in Mymensingh town after the name of Syed Nazrul Islam who was the acting President during the War of Liberation in absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

Preparations have been taken for admission into BSC classes in the current session, the college sources said.

An organising committee has been formed with Advocate M Zubed Ali as the convenor.

Former principal of Ananda Mohan University College Prof A K M Shamsul Islam has been appointed principal (Honorary) of the college.

Bodies recovered

PATUAHALI, Aug 16: Bodies of a young man and a woman floating in river were recovered from near the town, reports BSS.

Kamal, 22, a trawler mechanic, in a clash at the launch ghat was struck down and fell into river. His body was found floating in the river recently. Another body of young unidentified woman was recovered from near the char of the Loholia river by police recently. She was found wearing blouse and skirt. It is suspected that the woman was killed after physical torture.

Reception to social worker

CORILLA, Aug 16: A reception was accorded to Alhaj Mohammad Nurul Islam, founder of Danaukhola Adarsha Public College and a social worker, at a function held in the college premises on August 7, reports BSS.

Chairman of the executive committee of the college Sultan Ahmed presided over the function. Principal Manzur Kader, Local Union Parishad Chairman Ali Ahmad, Sahmsul Huq Masdar, Nurul Alam, Farhad Hossain, Abdul Hye Babu, Abdul Ali, Dr Md Mosharraf, Abdur Rab Masdar and Rafiqul Islam Khan spoke at the reception. A cultural function was also held on the occasion.

Bidi factories violating rule of health test

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National

Ambitious programme aims at achieving T-Aman production target

JOYPURHAT, Aug 16: Inspired by bumper harvest of IRRI-Boro paddy in the last season, a massive programme has been taken up here to make transplanted Aman production a tremendous success in the current season, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said some 8,000 committees comprising the owners of irrigation pumps and the rich farmers has been formed to provide irrigation facilities in some dry areas.

A total of 4,150 people in five thanas were imparted special training on how to check the attack of pests and the use of pesticides.

Of the total given training, 2,000 were Imam of mosques while 500 are ideal farmers, 400 co-operators, 650 schoolteachers and 650 dealers of fertiliser and pesticides.

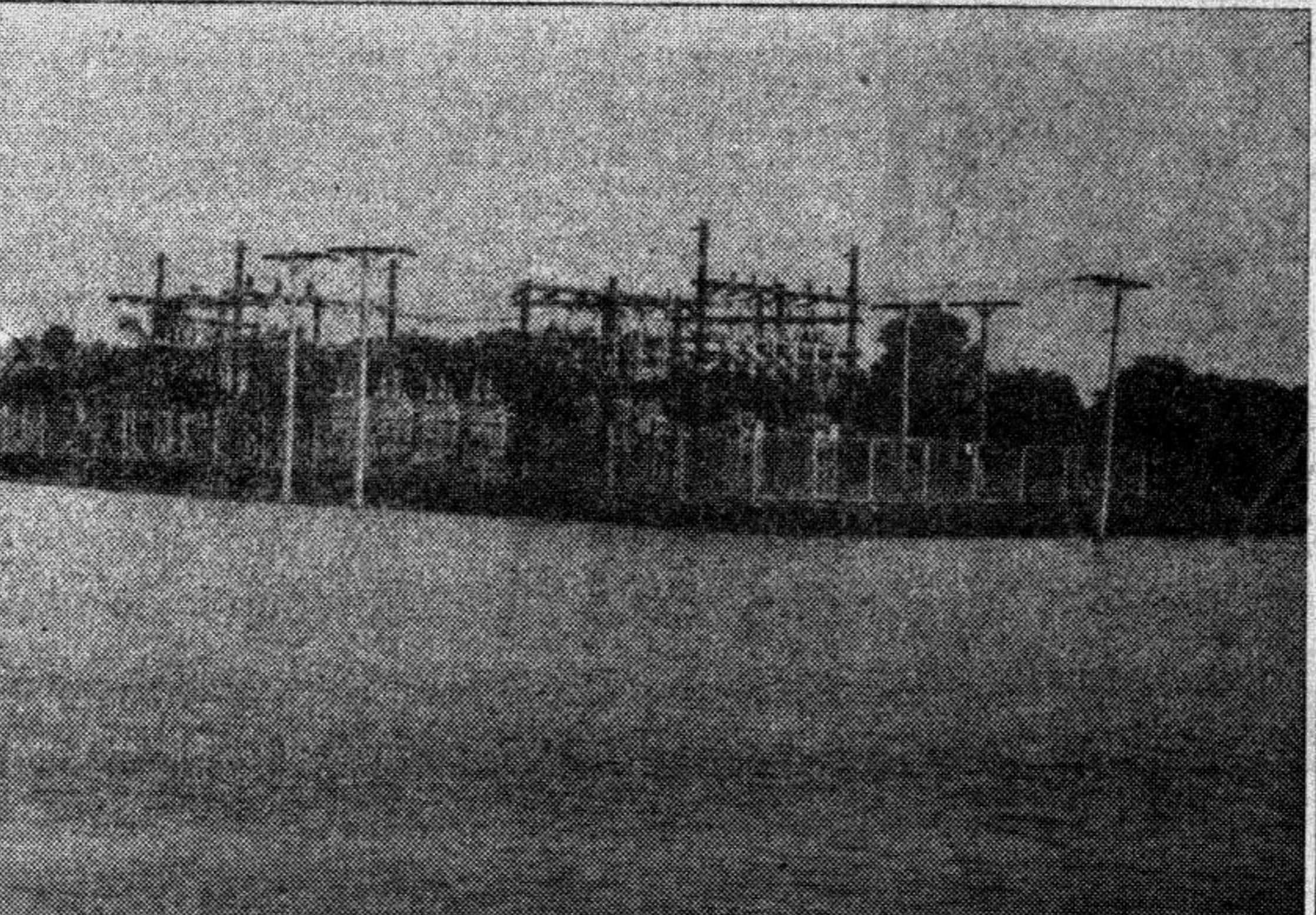
Besides, other necessary steps to help the farmers by the AED have also been taken to make the programme a success.

Seedbeds on a total of 187 hectares of land were reserved apprehending that flood or drought might damage Aman seedlings.

AED sources said 71,250 hectares of land were targeted for cultivation of transplanted Aman this year. Of this, 64,450 hectares would be brought under 'Ushi' (high yielding) variety and the rest under local variety.

About 90 per cent of the targeted land have already been cultivated, which is much higher compared to same period of the last year, they said.

Aman cultivation might be hampered due to less rain and adverse weather as 1,977.85 mm of rain was recorded in the district in last year while only 765.16 mm of rain in last six months this year.



Power station threatened: Sharp rise in water level of Chalan Beel in Shingra thana of Natore district has posed a threat to the Palli Bidduyam Samity power station.

—Star photo by Anwar Ali

Foodgrains procurement surpasses target in Joypurhat dist

JOYPURHAT, Aug 16: The procurement of irri-boro rice and paddy in the district has surpassed the target this year, reports UNB.

Officials said they have already procured 17,095 metric tons of rice since July. Besides, procurement of paddy stood at 5,695 metric tons as against the target of 5,000 metric tons.

They said formalities for buying another 5,000 tons of rice have been completed to exceed the procurement target of 22,000 metric tons of rice.

The Food Ministry has okayed permission to procure 5,000 metric tons but the pro-

cess was delayed in the absence of adequate godown facilities.

Joypurhat is a rice surplus area. Fair price to farmers was ensured by additional procurement of rice by the government. Officials said they were ready to procure yet another 1,000 tons of rice from the district if the authorities take the lot to some other part for stocking.

The farmers of the district have huge stocks of paddy as they had a bumper harvest of about 2.27 lakh metric tons of paddy this year as against the target of 1.29 lakh tons for the year.

As the government procure-



BWDB officials and staffers trying frantically to check the erosion by the River Meghna at Katakhal point of Chandpur irrigation project.

—Star photo

Erosion renders 7,500 homeless in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 16: Erosion by the river Madhumati and Kumar has taken serious turn in the last 20 days, rendering about 7,500 people of five thanas under Gopalganj district home.

About 4,500 acres of land with 600 houses, 75 shops and standing aman and aus paddy were also devoured during the period.

The worst affected areas are Bhatia Para, Chapta Ratiat, Ghanapara, Kamarhol, Tillechara, Gopalpur, Fukura under Kasiaria thana and Jalabad, Sutfa, Eshkhali, Durgapur, Sukta, Kekania, Tala Modhupur, Ghosherchar, Charmanikdha, Manikdha, Paddarchar, Gobara, Char Gobra and Ghanapara under Sardar thana.

The Water Development Board has taken up a Tk 10 crore 30 lakh project to protect the road.

Malaria research centre at Bandarban sought

BANDARBAN, Aug 16: An advocacy meeting on the prevention of malaria sponsored by the Health Department was held at the local Circuit House on August 12, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Civil Surgeon, Bandarban Dr Sarfaraz Khan Chowdhury.

Bandarban District Council Chairman Thowaina Cha Prue Master was present at the meeting as the chief guest.

Dr P R Arhani, South Asian chief of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Abdul Hannan Bangali, National Programme Officer of the Health Directorate and WHO Consultant Dr Pushpa R J Herz attended the meeting as the special guests.

Master speaking on the occasion called upon the government to establish a malaria research centre at Bandarban which is a malaria prone area in the country.

Photo exhibition on Bangabandhu

COMILLA says: District Information Department has chalked out a programme of showing film on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the history of Liberation War and the birth of independent Bangladesh on the occasion of National Mourning Day.

This film will be shown in Chowdogram, Laksam, Burichang, Sadar and Debdiwar thanas.

Primary school student slaughtered

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 16: A primary school student was slaughtered by unidentified assailants in Jasud BADC godown area in sadar thana on Friday evening, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants slaughtered Enamul Haq alias Enam, 11, a class IV student of Jasud Government Primary School and son of the godown's night guard Siddiqu Rahman, when he went out of his house for playing.

"Enam did not back home in the evening, his family members looked for him and discovered the beheaded body in the godown area at about 8 pm," police said quoting Siddiqu's statement.

Being informed, police recovered the body and sent the same to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Irregularities in Chandpur Ansar-VDP complex work

CHANDPUR, Aug 16: Helped by the local administration, the Bureau of Anti-Corruption has unfolded massive irregularities in construction of an annex building of the local Ansar-VDP complex and earth filling of its parade ground, reports UNB.

Official sources said 1,290 mt of wheat, out of 1,350 mt allocated for implementing the project have been embezzled.

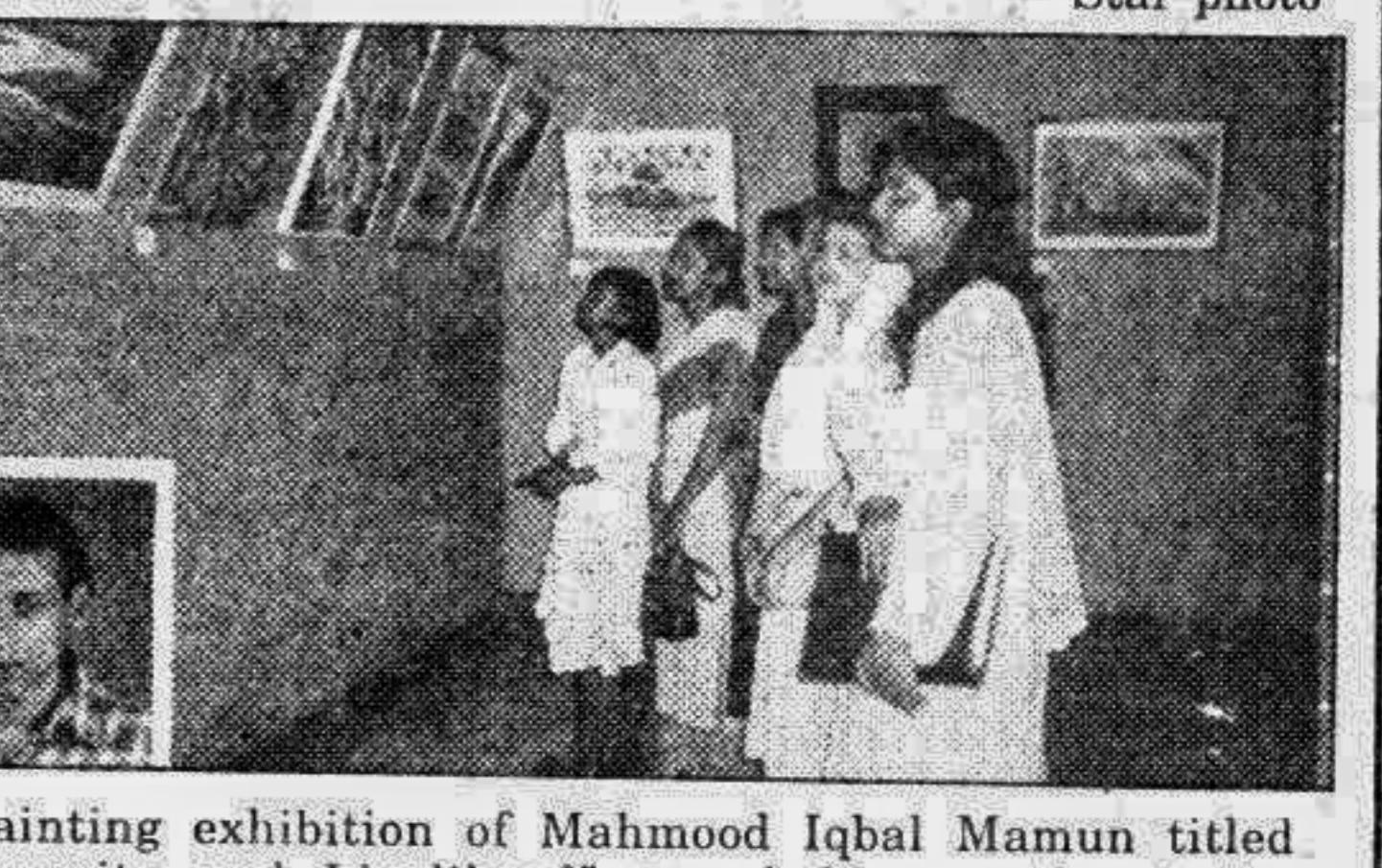
They said on February 8 this year Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry under the government allotted 850 mt of wheat for extension of the Ansar-VDP complex and 500 mt for earth filling of the parade ground.

Meanwhile, the local administration and Anti-Corruption Bureau have formed separate investigation committees to probe the matter.

Events of districts in picture



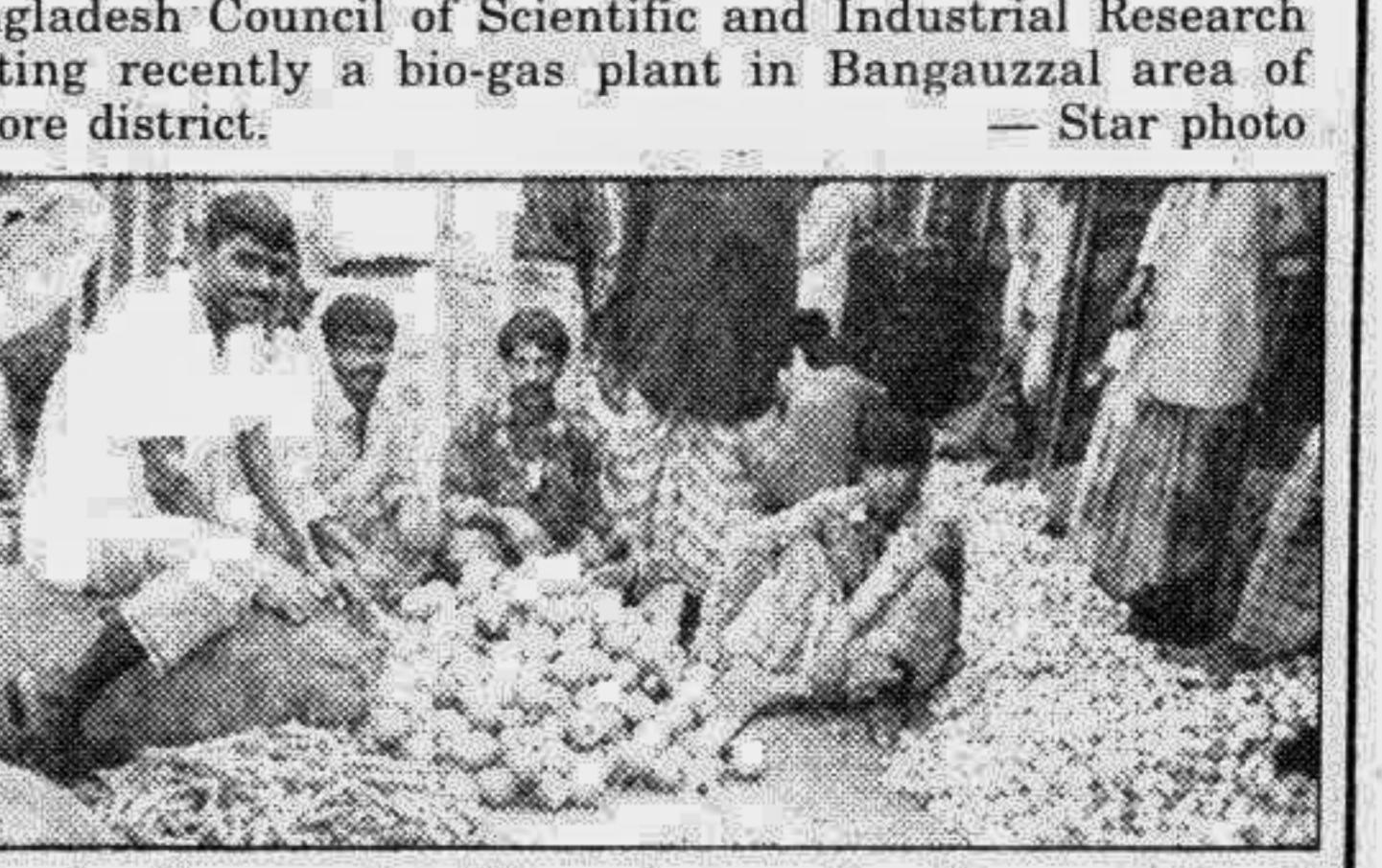
Rajshahi University Drama Association celebrated its 10th founding anniversary recently on the university campus.



A painting exhibition of Mahmood Iqbal titled "Humanity and Livelihood" was held recently at the Ananda Mohan College auditorium.



Fuel's substitute: Prof Md Moshiuzzaman, chairman of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research visiting recently a bio-gas plant in Bangauza area of Natore district.



Abundant supply: There is an abundant supply of vegetables of different kinds in the hats and bazaars of Magura district this season.