

## News snaps

### Sub-standard drugs flood markets

TANGAIL, Nov 12: Unabated sale of sub-standard Indian medicine here, particularly in the rural areas, has posed a threat to the local pharmaceutical industries and is creating serious health hazards to public, reports UNB.

Poor people are often inclined to buy Indian medicine which is cheaper compared to the locally manufactured ones. Indian medicine, most in demand, are Netronidazole, Dicyclanone, Rantidine, dexamethosone, Ciprocine tablets and capsules of Amoxycillin group. Besides, vitamins and hormonal tablets and capsules are also sold in large quantities. Most of Indian medicine bear no expiry dates on the labels.

### Municipal commissioner arrested

JHALAKATI, Nov 12: The CID police arrested a municipal commissioner from the town on Tuesday in connection with the robbery of government wheat, reports UNB.

Ayub Ali Talukder, a commissioner of ward no 9 in Jhalakati Municipality, is allegedly involved in the robbery of 516 bags of wheat from a cargo vessel in Kalkhali thana of Pirojpur district.

### Young man commits suicide

PATUAKHALI, Nov 12: A young man has allegedly committed suicide in Galachipa thana by taking pesticide, reports UNB.

Siddique Rahman, 22, son of Razzak Miah of Kalagachia village, died at Patuakhali General Hospital on Sunday morning. Police said Siddique, who passed SSC examination three years back, took his own life by taking pesticide after his father scolded him for remaining unemployed.

### Memo submitted

GAIBANDHA, Nov 12: Hundreds of flood affected people of Gumaniganj union brought out a protest procession in the town on Tuesday and laid siege to Gobindaganj thana TNO office demanding allocation of VGF cards for them, reports UNB.

The agitating people also submitted a memorandum to the TNO protesting his alleged biased role. The relief ministry has sanctioned 2,400 VGF cards for distribution among the flood-affected people in 10 unions of Gobindaganj thana. The people of Gumaniganj union became furious after they were excluded from the list of VGF cards. When contacted, TNO Abdul Hannan Chowdhury said VGF cards were distributed among the affected people of 10 unions as per the government guidelines. The municipal authorities have distributed VGF cards among the people of three wards of Gumaniganj union which is included in the pourasabha area, the TNO said.

### Dacoit arrested

MYMENSINGH, Nov 12: A dacoit wanted in 11 criminal cases, including murder of a police informer, was arrested from his hideout in village Bororchar Bhatipara on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said Shaheb Ali, 40, was arrested from the house of Haroon at 5 pm. Ali tried in vain to resist the police with sharp weapons.

### Youth with phensidyl arrested

MYMENSINGH, Nov 12: A young man with 230 bottles of phensidyl was arrested soon after he disembarked at the railway station here from the Dhaka-bound Uttarabanga mail train at 6 am on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The drug, smuggled from across the border, was being carried in three sacks from the railway station by Javed Akhtar Sujun, 22. Police challenged him and arrested him. Sujun was undergoing police interrogation till filing of this report.

### Law and order reviewed

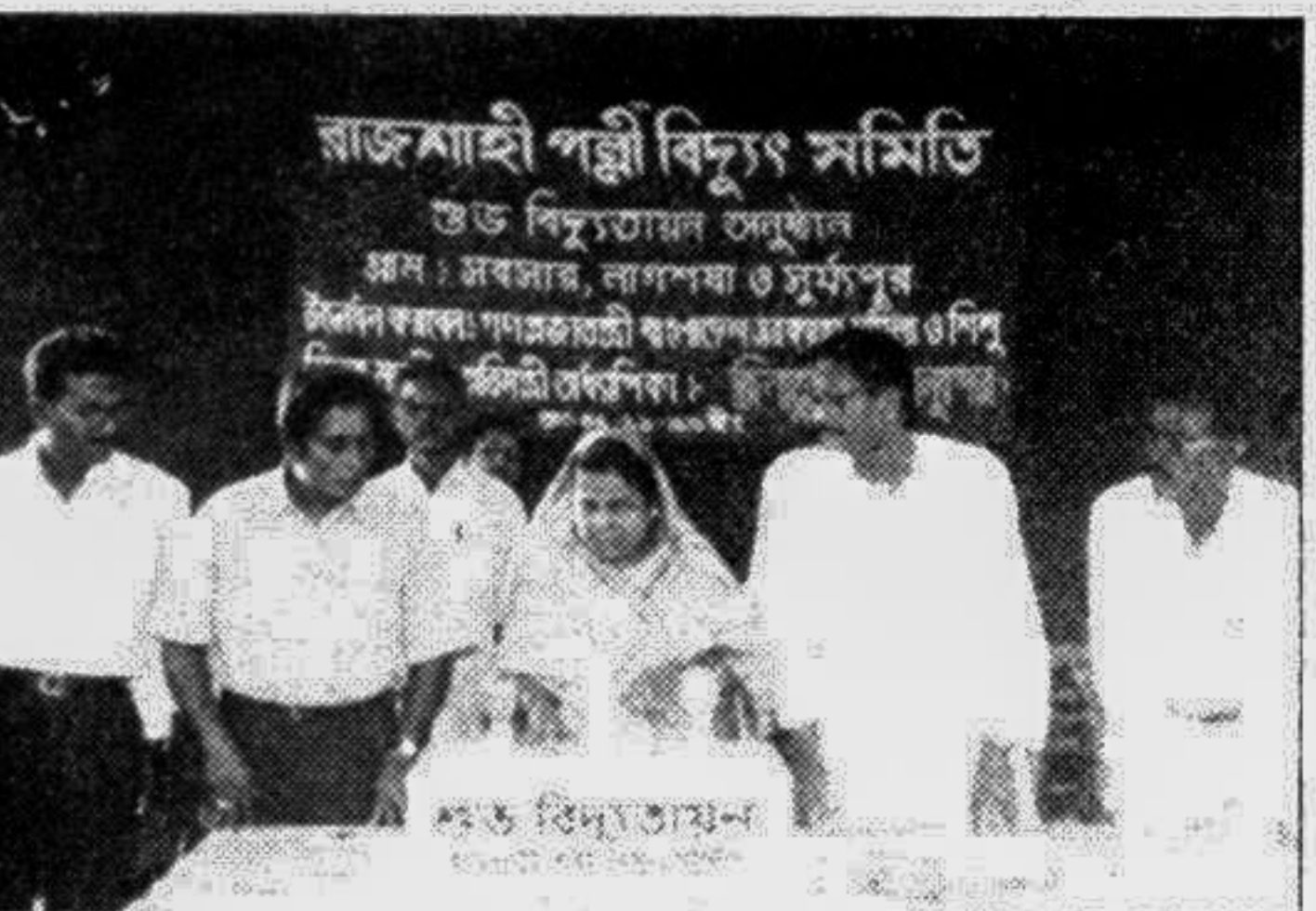
JHENIDAH, Nov 12: A meeting of the district law and order committee was held on Sunday at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), reports BSS.

Shoebur Rahman, DC of Jhenidah, presided over the meeting. The meeting discussed the law and order situation and decided to take necessary measures against all crimes, particularly repression on women and children including dowry, torture, abduction, rape, murder and child lifting. The meeting stressed the need for curbing terrorism at any cost.

### Education Week observed

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 12: National Education Week was observed in Sarail upazila recently, reports BSS.

A discussion was held on this occasion. Thana Nirbahi Officer Punya Brata Chowdhury presided over the meeting.



State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Zinnatunnessa Talukder inaugurating the newly established 4.36-km electric line of Rajshahi Rural Electricity Association at Poba thana of Rajshahi district at a function held on November 6. —Star photo

### Pension distributed

JESSORE, Nov 12: More than Taka eight lakh 19 thousand have been distributed among 8,190 people this month under the government's old age allowance scheme in 91 unions, officials said here, reports BSS.

Among those 1,350 people are in 15 unions of sadar thana, 720 in eight unions of Abhay Nagar thana, 950 in 11 unions of Zhikargachha thana, 990 in 11 unions of Sharsha thana, 810 in nine unions of Keshabpur thana, 810 in nine unions of Bagharpara thana, 1,530 are in 17 unions of Monirampur thana and 990 are in 11 unions of Chowgachhi thana.

### Hundi business in C'nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 12: Unauthorised currency business, widely known as hundi business, is booming in frontier areas of the district depriving the government of huge revenue earnings, reports UNB.

A businessman said traders prefer it due to slow and complicated transaction process in our banks while smugglers and those who cross borders illegally like it for making windfall profit. He said there are more than 100 people in frontier thanas, including Sadar, Shibganj, Ranihat, Monkasha and Sonamasjd, involved in hundi business.

### Reporters Club executives

NAOGAON, Nov 12: An 11-member executive committee of Naogaon Reporters' Club has been elected for a three-year term, reports UNB.

Intiaz Alam of UNB has been elected president unopposed while Mesbah Sakline of Ayker Kagoj general secretary. The other office bearers are vice-president Saidur Rahman, assistant general secretary Sahinul Islam, treasurer Sentu Ansari, office secretary Mamunur Rashid, organising secretary Masudur Rahman Ratan and members Shahidul Islam, Sheikh Abdul Matin and Pronob Karmakar.

### Schemes to protect 2 towns

JHALAKATI, Nov 12: Three schemes have been taken up to protect two towns and one river port from river erosion, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) will implement the schemes at a cost of Tk 9.15 crore under the town protection project, officials said. Of the total, Tk 4.25 crore has been sanctioned for Jhalakati district town protection scheme, Tk 4.65 crore for Amua port protection scheme in Kathalia thana and Tk 25 lakh for Nalchiti town protection scheme. Under the schemes, CC blocks will be dumped to protect the district town and Amua port from erosion by the rivers Sugandha and Bishkhali. The work of the schemes will begin soon.

# Problems grip Chandpur Govt College

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Nov 12: Chandpur Government College is beset with manifold problems including shortage of teachers, accommodation in classrooms, hostels, lack of seminar facilities and transport problem hampering education in the college for a long time.

The college having 6,000 students was established in 1946 on about 10 acres of land. The college was nationalised in 1980. Honours, preliminary and master courses have been introduced since 1991-92 session.

When contacted, the principal of the college informed that at present the shortage of teachers and accommodation of classrooms have been hampering the academic and administrative activities of the college.

According to Enam Commission Report, Chandpur Government College needs at least 112 teachers, but at present the college has only 57 teachers and the remaining 55 posts of teachers are lying vacant. The college has honours course in nine subjects. The subjects are Bengali, Accountancy, Economics, Political Science, English, History, Management, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Mathematics. The departments require 77 teachers, but

at present there are only 43 teachers. Masters final has been introduced in seven subjects. The subjects are Bengali, Accountancy, Economics, Political Science, English, History and Management. Each department needs 12 teachers. About 64 posts of teachers are lying vacant for a long time. The principal of the college told this correspondent that he has written to the ministry of education about the shortage of teachers, but no step has yet been taken. There is no seminar room and due to lack of third and fourth class employees in the departments, academic and administrative works are hampered. The college has no academic buildings consisting of 50 rooms, but it requires 100 classrooms including seminars and office rooms for each department to provide basic academic facilities. Due to accommodation problems honours classes remain suspended during the board and university examinations.

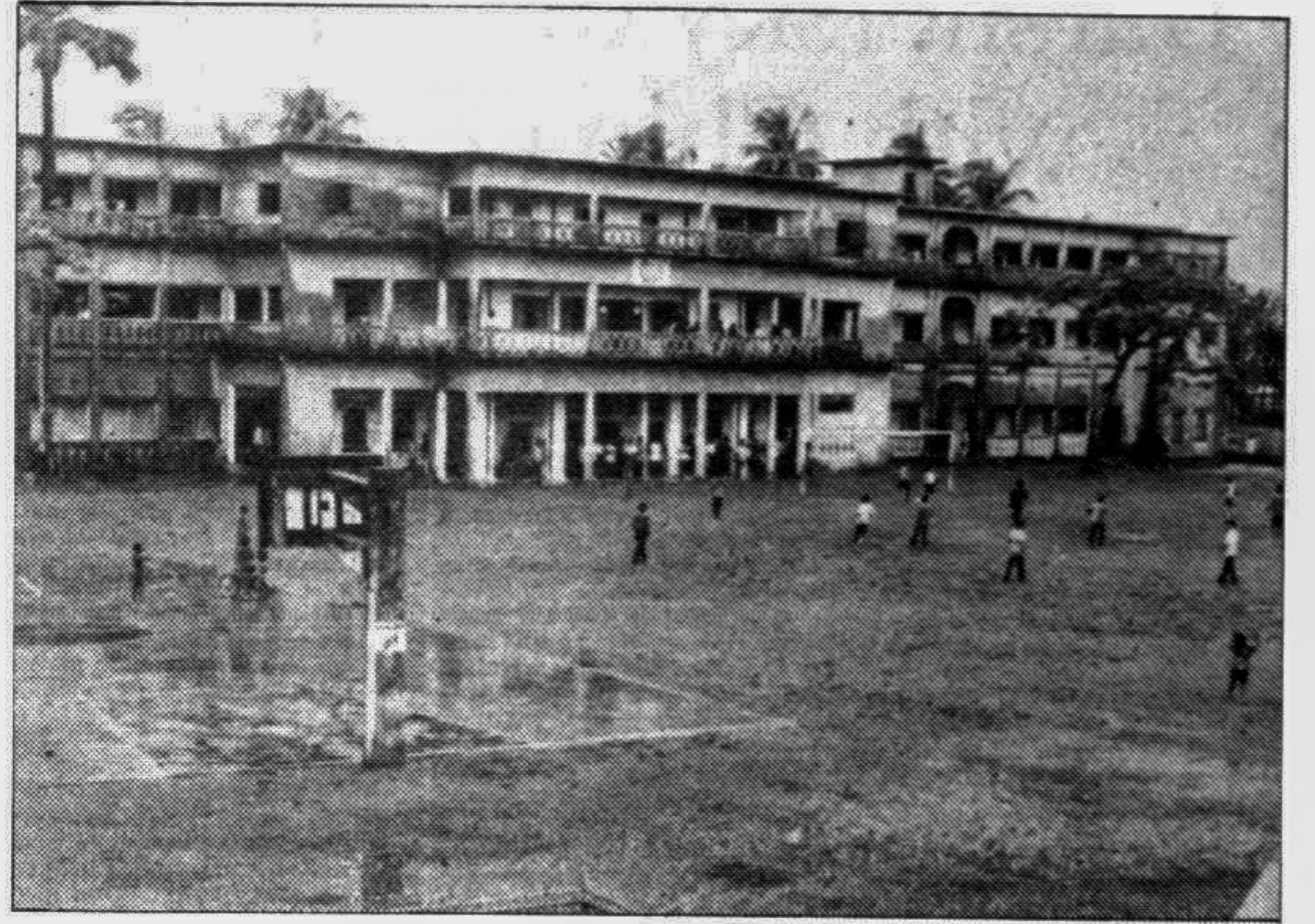
Chandpur Government College has both higher secondary and degree courses in Arts, Commerce and Science. It is difficult on the part of the teachers to manage classes in HSC, degree, honours, preliminary and masters final courses. So the acute shortage of teachers has

seriously affecting higher education of the college.

The college has no full-fledged common room and the students are deprived of facilities of newspapers, magazines and periodicals. Having no recreational facilities students, during leisure periods are found loitering aimlessly in the corridors hampering the on-going classes.

There are shortage of books in library of the college. Due to lack of accommodation and facilities in the library the honours and masters students are facing difficulties. There is no residential facilities for the principal, vice-principal and teachers of the college. Teachers are residing in rental houses at higher rents.

The students of the college have been facing many problems due to lack of accommodation in the hostels. The college has only three hostels. Two hostels are for the male students and one for the female students. Only 200 students can be accommodated in the three hostels. A large number of students have failed to get seats in the hostels. So many students are residing in boarding houses, messes at higher rent. There are also an acute shortage of third and fourth class employees in the college.



Front view of Chandpur Government College.

—Star photo

## Erosion takes serious turn in Chapainawabganj, Feni

River erosion has taken a serious turn in Chapainawabganj and Feni districts recently, reports UNB.

Erosion by three rivers in Chapainawabganj district has taken a serious turn threatening the district town and the Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj-Sona Masjid roads.

At least 4,500 families in Sadar and Shibganj thanas were rendered homeless in last two and a half month due to erosion by the Padma, Pagla and Mahananda rivers.

The turbulent Padma devoured 1,500 dwelling houses of nine villages in Uzirpur, Sundarpur and Narayanpur unions. An official source said since the 60s, the rivers grabbed some 75,000 acres of arable land, 5,000 dwelling houses, 48 educational institutions, over 100

mosques, three UP office buildings, two health sub-centres, three police outposts and three agriculture office buildings in 11 UPs of the two thanas.

Water Development Board dumped 14,500 CC blocks in 1996. During this fiscal year, the board made an allocation of Tk 50 lakh to protect the district from erosion, but apparently without any success.

Some 30,000 people of Farhadnagar union in Feni sadar thana have come under serious threat due to unabated erosion of the hilly rivers in Feni district.

A vast tract of the union have been eroded by strong currents of the Muhuri, Kalidas, Pahila and Feni rivers.

Over one hundred families already became distressed as the rivers grabbed 85 home-

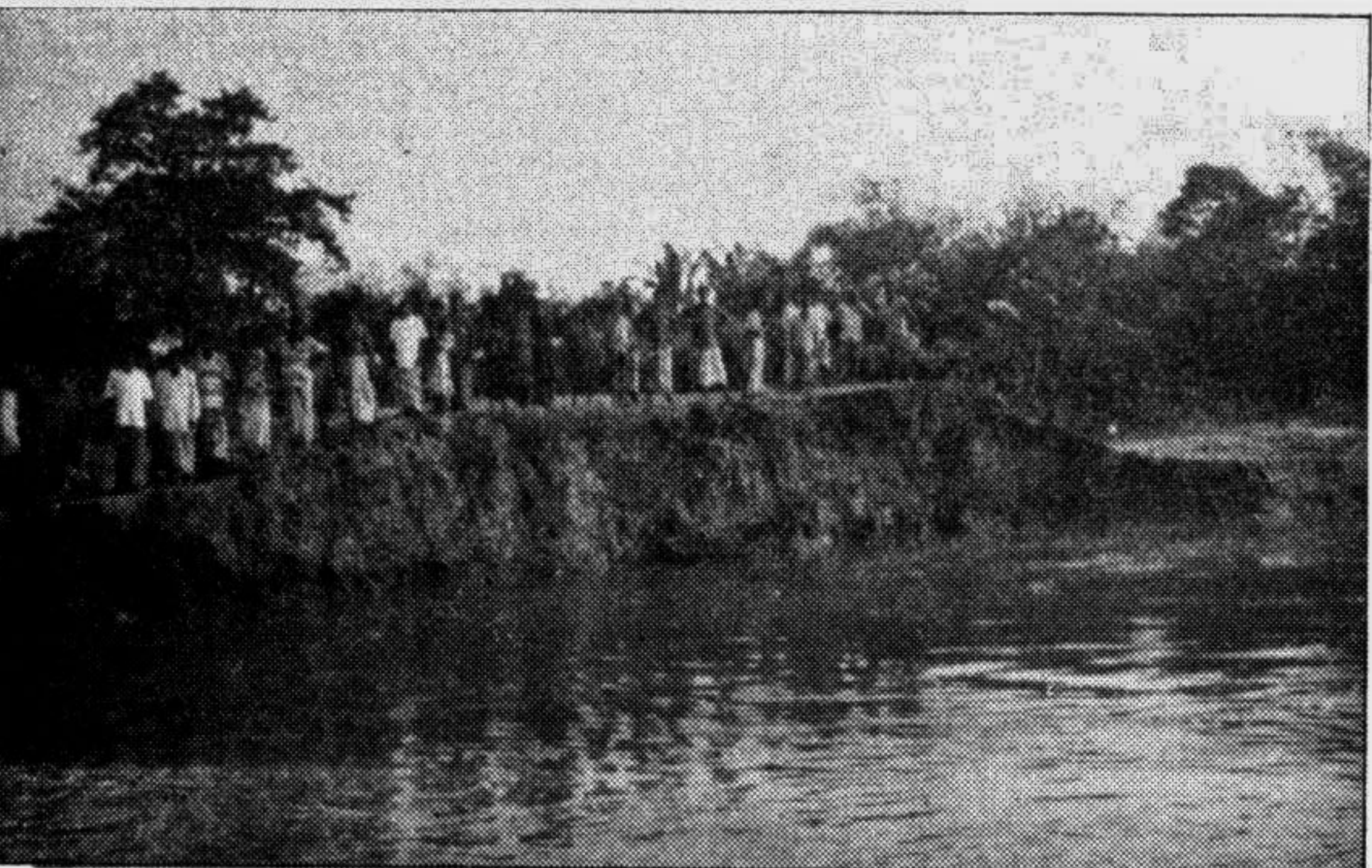
steads in three villages.

At present, three mosques, a local bazar and a vast tract of arable lands are facing threat of erosion.

The people already rendered homeless by erosion, are staying under the open sky. They have not yet received any help from the government or the non-government organisations (NGOs).

Meanwhile the groyne dam, constructed by Water Development Board at a cost of Tk 3 crore to protect the union from river erosion has become a deathtrap.

Due to wrong planning of the construction of the groyne, river is changing its course towards the densely populated Char Kalidaspur village due to strong currents generated by obstructions caused by the groyne.



Nature's wrath: A vast tract of land and hundreds of homes have gone under water due to unabated erosion of the River Mohananda at Anupnagar in Nawabganj sadar thana.

## Bumper output of Boro in Sylhet district expected

SYLHET, Nov 12: As the weather seems to be favourable, Agriculture Extension Department (AED) expects a bumper paddy production in Sylhet division in the coming Boro season, reports UNB.

AED officials said some 3.22 lakh hectares of land would be brought under Boro cultivation in 35 thanas of the greater Sylhet district with an estimated output target of 7.5 lakh metric tons.

In greater Sylhet, Sunamganj is known as the big bowl of rice and the AED officials are hoping that the highest quantity of paddy would be produced in 11 thanas.

High Yielding Variety of paddy will be cultivated on 92,840 hectares in the coming season while local variety on 65,930 hectares with an esti-

lated production target of 1,58,770 metric tons.

Some 1.1 metric tons of paddy are expected to be produced in 11 thanas of Sylhet district as 24,880 hectares of land would be brought under the cultivation of high yielding variety and 24,410 hectares under local variety.

In Moulvibazar, 24,030 hectares would be brought under high yielding variety while 8,240 hectares under local variety with an estimated production target of 79,575 mts.

The high yielding variety of paddy will be cultivated on 75,340 hectares of land while local variety on 6,670 hectares in Habiganj with a targeted production of 2.26 lakh metric tons.

Officials said AED would

supply seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to achieve the production target.

Another report from Kishoreganj says: Some 81,000 hectares of land will be brought under wheat cultivation in five districts of Mymensingh Agriculture Extension Zone (MAEZ) in the coming winter.

Officials expect that some 1,85,166 mts of wheat would be produced from the lands, of which 20,000 hectares fall in Mymensingh, 17,500 in Jamalpur, 18,000 in Sherpur, 12,000 in Netrakona and 13,500 in Kishoreganj districts.

They said necessary measures have been taken to give loans, supply high yielding varieties of seed, fertiliser, pesticide and other inputs to the farmers.

## Crimes up in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 12: Crimes, including murder, abduction, rape, robbery, theft, mugging and terrorism, have increased in recent days here, endangering the security of life and property.

Local people said criminals are active and moving freely in several areas of the district, particularly in the town, Mirpur, Bheramara and Daulatpur thanas.

Common people said law and order situation is deteriorating day by day as police fail to arrest the criminals, who are well organised and backed by influential people.

A body was recovered from a crop field in Mirpur thana on November 2. The dead was identified as Babul, 35, son of Yousuf Ali Pramanik of village Tatbandha under Baruipara union.

Police suspected the man was murdered. But the cause of the murder could not be known. However, father of Babul ac-

cused the victim's business partners of murdering his son. None was arrested till filing of this report.

A nine-year-old boy was found dead in Daulatpur thana on the same day. Police said body of Sohel Rana, son of Yousuf Ali of village Laxmikole under the thana, was found floating in a pond. Police said the boy was killed and left in the pond.

Tutul, 27, son of Abdur Rahsid of Majampur in the town, has been missing since October 26, family sources said. Family members of Tutul suspect the young man has been abducted.

At least 10 persons were injured in a clash between two groups of people at village Shahpur under Abdalpur union of Sadar thana on November 2. Seriously injured Mannan, 32, Akbar, 15, Akkas, 33, Latif, 22, Akbar, 33, and Abdul Ali, 40, were admitted in Kushtia General Hospital.

A motorcycle was hijacked

from Chitholia area under Mirpur thana on October 28. Police said a group of hoodlums intercepted motorcycle, Dr Rabiul Islam, and hijacked his bike at gunpoint. A case was lodged in this connection.

Body of a rice trader was found dead at Sargopur under Sadar thana on October 26. The victim was identified as Intaz Ali.

A 19-year-old young girl was abducted by a group of terrorists in Bheramara on October 26. Police said Mita, daughter of Moktar Hossain of village Nawdapara, was abducted at gunpoint on her way to Bheramara College. A case was lodged in this connection. Mita is yet to be rescued.

A six-year-old girl was raped at village Dharmadaha under Daulatpur thana on October 21. The victim was admitted to Daulatpur Health Complex. No one was arrested in this connection.



President Gen Secy

### Office-bearers of RU Press Club

From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Nov 12: New executive committee of Rajshahi University Press Club took over recently at simple ceremony on the campus.

Md Anisuzzaman, RU correspondent of the Janakantha, and Jakir Hossain, RU correspondent of the Bhorer Kagoj, were made president and general secretary respectively of the new executive committee.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan, who is also chief patron of the club, was present as the chief guest on the occasion.

Other office bearers are Vice President- Khandkar Arfar Ali Biplob (BNS); Assistant General Secretary-Md Abdul Khaleque Mithu (the Karatoa); Treasurer-Mohd Mazedul Islam Sweet (the Banglar Bani); Literary and Cultural Secretary-Md Mokbul Hossain Khondkar Ditu (the Prakash); Sports Secretary-Md Anul Haq (the Sonar Desh); Publicity and Publication Secretary-Md Mahbub Alam (the Dinkal); Members- Md Monwarul Islam Mamun (the Anonda Bhor); Rokonzaman Mukti (the Kalam Sainik); and Arif Nowajesh (the Sangram).

### Teen raped

BARGUNA, Nov 12: A teenage girl was allegedly raped by her cousin at Mansatali village in Sadar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Milon, 30, picked up the 12-year-old girl when she went out to respond the nature's call in the evening and raped her at a place near the residence. Milon went into hiding soon after the incident. A case was filed with local police.

## Events of districts in picture



Emancipation thru' cooperatives: National Cooperatives Day was observed all over the country on November 6. In Mymensingh a colourful programme including a discussion meeting was arranged at the local zilla parish auditorium. Photo shows artistes rendering songs on the occasion. —Star photo



Young visitors thronging at the annual fine arts exhibition '99 held recently at the Department of Fine Arts of Rajshahi University. —Star photo

## Shahjalal Varsity invents arsenic meter

SYLHET, Nov 12: Amidst growing arsenic panic among the people across the country, Shahjalal Science and Technology University (SSTU) invented an 'Arsenic meter' to test water: whether arsenic contaminated or not, reports UNB.

Environmental Engineering and Pollution Control Department of the university has invented the device that can measure the percentage of arsenic, iron and other ingredients in water.

Head of the department Dr Mohammad Abu Yusuf said they became interested about inventing the device following the widespread arsenic panic among the people.

He said: "In our department, all ingredients of water can be determined correctly... anybody can test water from our labora-

tory at a cost of Tk 1,200.

Dr Abu Yusuf informed that the cost of chemicals used in testing is high and the tests are to be conducted by experts only. Excessive iron can also be removed from water by establishing a small purification plant in cooperation with the department, he said.

With financial assistance from the World Bank, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), under its Arsenic Free Water Supply Project, is carrying out arsenic tests in all the tubewells of six thanas here.

The three-month long programme started on October 1 primarily to identify the arsenic contaminated tubewells not the degree of arsenic contents.



Truck drivers are responsible for the traffic mess in Jhenidah town. They park their vehicles according to their whims creating frequent traffic jams near Arappur stand, Chuadanga stand, Azad Rest House corner. On-duty traffic police personnel seem to be quite indifferent to do their duties and Arappur stand (right). —Star photo