

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 are cheaper compared to the locally manufactured ones. Indian medicine, most in demand, are Netronidazole, Dyclotene, Renitidine, dexamethson, Ciprofloxacin tablets and capsules of Amoxycillin group. Besides, vitamins and hormonal tablet 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 Kaukhali 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.

Siddiqur Rahman, 22, son of Razzaq Miah of Kalagachia village, died at Patuakhali General Hospital on Sunday morning. Police said Siddiq, 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 phenisidyl arrested

MYMENSINGH, Nov 12: A young man with 230 bottles of phenisidyl 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 Sujan, 22. Police challenged him and arrested him. Sujan 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.

Shoeibur 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 Choudhury presided over the meeting.



State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Zinnatunnesa 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 Abhoy Nagar thana, 950 in 11 unions of Zikrachcha thana, 990 in 11 unions of Sharsha thana, 810 in nine unions of Keshabpur thana, 810 in nine unions of Bagharpura 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 Sonamasjid, 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.

Imtiaz Alam of UNB has been elected president unopposed while Mesbah Sakkine of Ajker Kagoj general secretary. The other office bearers are vice-president Saidur Rahman, assistant general secretary Sahinul Islam, treasurer Senu 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 Nalchitti 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 two 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 fully-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.

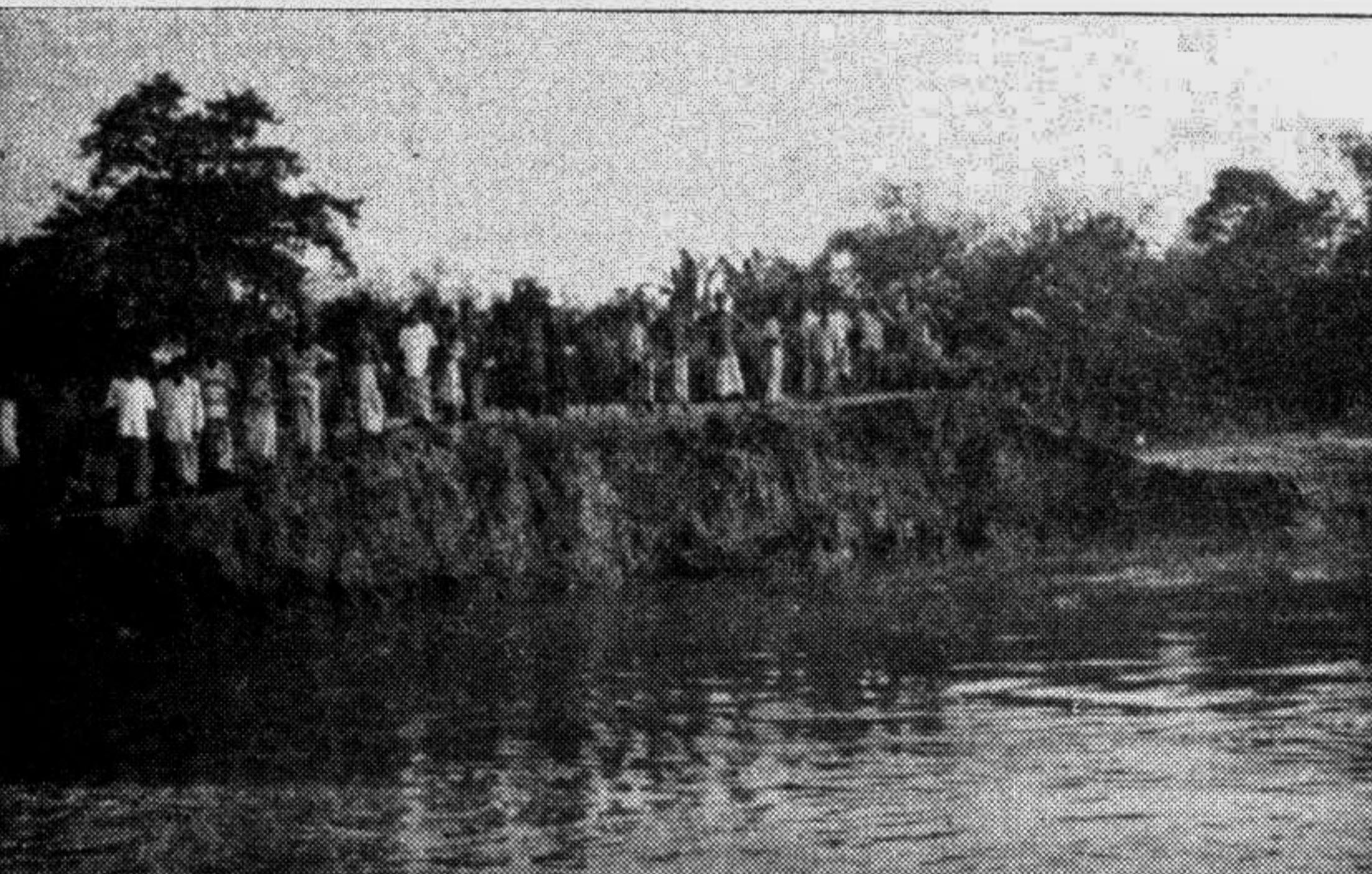
There are shortage of books in library of the college. Due to lack of accommodation and facilities in the library the honours and masters students are facing difficulties. There is no residential facilities for the principal, vice-principal and teachers of the college. Teachers are residing in rental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



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 Anuognagar in Nawabganj sadar thana.

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 Narayanganj 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.

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, the river is changing its course towards the densely populated Char Kalidaspur village due to strong currents generated by the groyne.

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

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 parisad 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

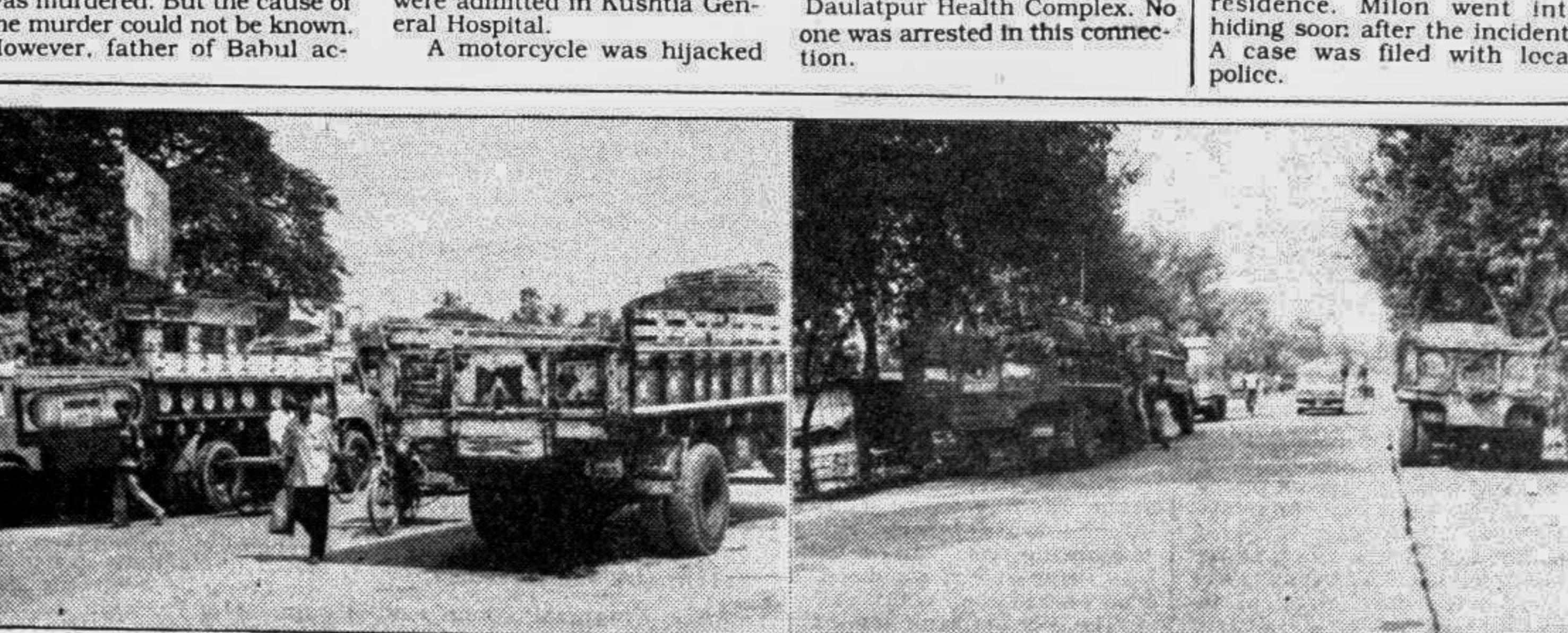
SYLHET, Nov 12: Amidst growing arsenic panic among the people across the country, Shahjalal Science and Technology University (SSTU) invented an 'Arsenic meter' to test water: whether arsenic contaminated or not, reports UNB.

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.

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 content.



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, Chaudanga stand, Azad Rest House corner. On-duty traffic police personnel seem to be quite indifferent to do their duties.

Photo shows parked trucks at Agrani square (left) and Arappur stand (right).

Star photo