

## PM's call to students Uphold values, dignity of pen, paper

BARISAL, June 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the students to uphold the values and dignity of the pen and paper she handed over to the students, reports UNB.

She was talking to the newly-elected office-bearers and members of Barisal BM College and Barisal Medical College, who met her at her Sangsab Bhaban office in Dhaka on June 22. Bangladesh Chhatra League won in full panel of the student union elections of these two prestigious institutions.

The Prime Minister said, "We want to see that the future leadership of the nation is vested on educated and talented people."

She reminded the students that their main task is to devote themselves to studies. She said,

## No doctors for kidney treatment in SBMCH

BARISAL, June 24: The Nephrology Department was established for the treatment of kidney some years ago at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barisal, but kidney patients do not get much benefit from it, reports BSS.

The relevant doctors who have been appointed here at this department left it and took jobs to the other Dhaka-based medical colleges for better career and sometimes they cancelled their transfer orders without turning here up from the relevant health department, official sources said.

Two of the three nurses of the department also joined the medicine department of this college while the rest of the nurses of this department informed the patients that the department was not running as there was no doctors in this department.

The sophisticated equip-

ment in this department have been lying idle. Kidney patients have been released after being given primary treatment. For this reason, the financially sound patients go to Dhaka or elsewhere instead of coming to this department of the greatest medical college in the southern region.

There are two posts of doctors including one assistant professor and one reader in this department. None of them is there. The patients of the six southern districts of Barisal division did not get themselves admitted to the department for treatment since eight months last want for doctors.

There is an Air Conditioning (AC) machine at this department which is running at least two hours a day in the department. The use of this machine is wastage of power. The conscious people urged the authorities concerned for posting of the doctors.

## Metric system still not introduced!

From Our Correspondent  
GOPALGANJ, June 24: Metric system, the system of measurement that uses meters, grammes and litres, has not been introduced in rural areas of Kasiiani, Moksudpur and Kotalipara upazillas of the district, although the government made it compulsory in 1982 through an ordinance to use the system.

Traders in the areas till use the traditional method.

During a recent visit to Ramdia, Fukria, Parapur and Chapta Bazaar under Kasiiani upazilla, Jallipur, Banogram, Batiakamari and Ujani under Moksudpur upazila and Ghogar, Radhoganj and Shikir Bazar under Kotalipara upazila this correspondent found vendors were using the traditional method of *ser* and *maund*.

Beside, many vendors use brick chips as weights in violation of government rules.

## Freedom fighter breaks fast unto death

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 24: Freedom fighter Abdul Gafur, 55, at last broke his fast unto death on June 10 after two day's strike.

Gafur along with his wife and two children started hunger strike on Faridpur Press Club premises to protest against the attack on his house at Rathkhola in the town.

A group of unidentified hoodlums attacked the freedom fighter's dwelling house.

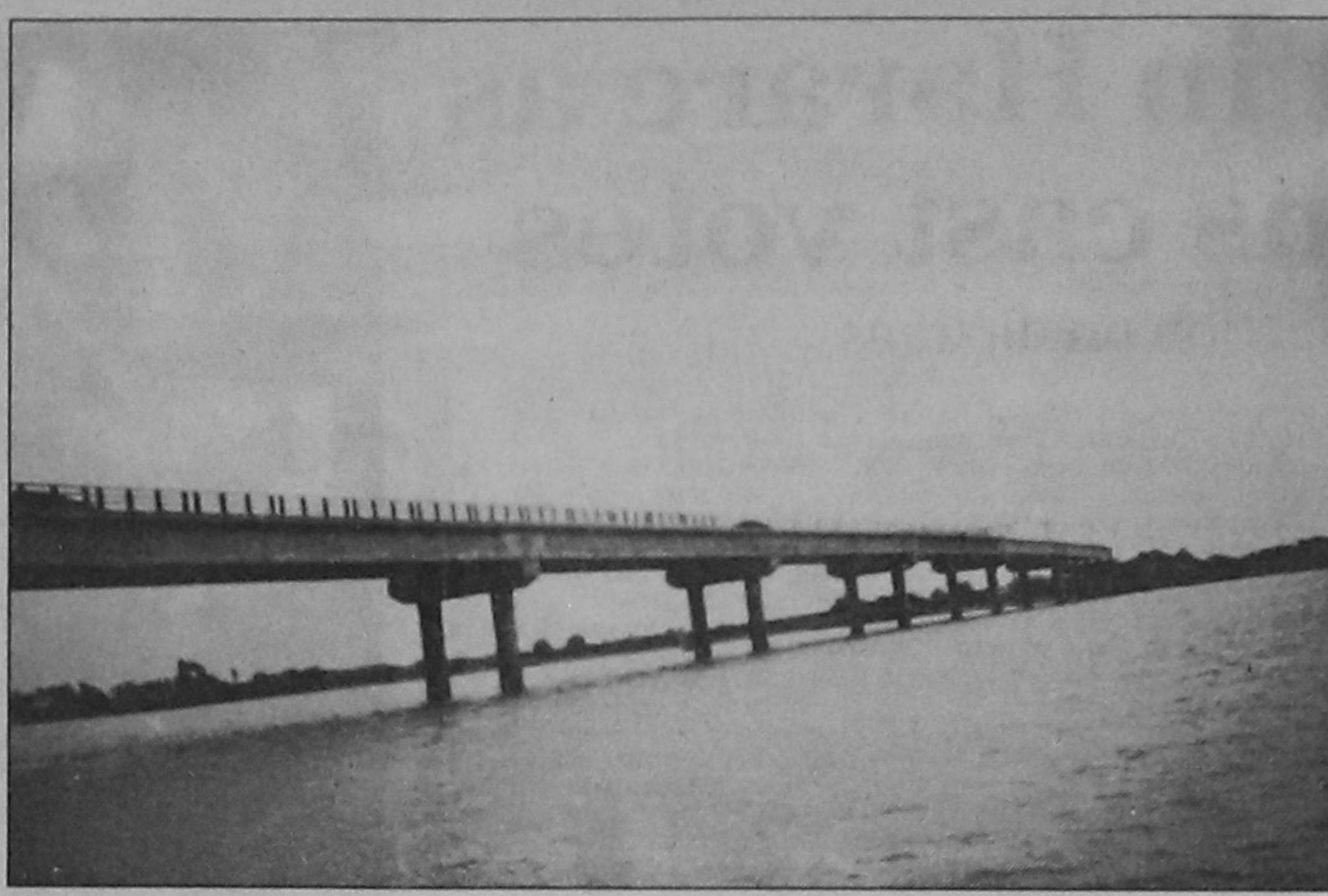
The freedom fighter broke his fast in presence of Faridpur municipality chairman Hasibul Hasan Labu, Additional District Magistrate Abdus Samad, freedom fighter Nurulmohammed Babul and Faridpur Press Club president Syed Imanul Azam.

## Netrakona blacksmiths pass hard days

NETRAKONA, June 24: Some 10,000 blacksmiths here are passing hard days mainly due to dearth of capital.

Besides, they are facing problems in absence of marketing facilities. They are forced to sell their goods below production cost.

Over the years prices of raw materials have increased, the prices of their products have not increased accordingly, making it difficult for the blacksmith to stick to the profession.



Works on the Taka Five-crore Karota Bridge Project near Shahjadpur town remain stopped for the last one year due to unknown reasons. On completion of the bridge the distance between Sirajganj-Shahjadpur and other southern districts with Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge will be shortened by 25 kilometres.

— Star photo

## National

## Country boatmen facing threat of unemployment

By Staff Correspondent

They said these boats, which add speed by setting irrigation pump machines, ply in the rivers Bakkhali, Matamuhuri, Naaf and their tributaries and canals across the district.

But the engine-driven boat is not safe enough for carrying passengers or goods in absence of proper control system in its direction and speed.

Our **Netrakona correspondent** says: The engine-driven boats are ferrying passengers in Atpara, Madan, Mohongonj Khalajuri and Kalmakanda thanas replacing the traditional ones.

Under the circumstances, the traditional boatmen are losing their daily income required for maintaining their family.

Journey by engine boat is more comfortable and less time consuming in comparison to the hazardous traditional boat journey. Hence people prefer engine boat for their journey from one place to another.

The traditional boatmen have urged the government to extend soft-term loan facilities to them to convert their traditional boats to mechanised ones.

## Reception to SSC talents

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, June 24: A civic reception was accorded to three meritorious students of Sirajganj for their outstanding results in this year's SSC examinations under Dhaka and Rajshahi boards.

Presided over by M A Musa,



Lita, former principal of Sirajganj Islamia College, the three-hour long reception was accorded to Saima Jerin Lita, Shusil Kumar Das and Md Moniruzzaman Rajib on Tuesday at Fazal Biponi Kendra, a local commercial centre.

Saima Jerin Lita topped the list in the combined merit list of Science group in the SSC examination from Dhaka Board this year. According to her, she scored 946 marks with distinctions in nine subjects, the highest marks among all the examinees of all the boards in the country.

Lita who hails from Hosainpur Moholla in Sirajganj



Shusil with his brother Paltu

town, appeared in the examination from Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College. Leaving the local Salcha Ishaque Government Girls' High School in 1997 she got herself admitted in the aforementioned cadet college in 1998. She expressed her gratitude to the people of her birth place Sirajganj town for according such a warm reception to her.

Lita whose aim in life is to become a computer engineer said that she had been overwhelmed after receiving a bouquet from them. She also revealed that Gulshan Ara, her mother and all of her teachers inspired her most for her brilliant result which she attained after studying for 12 hours.

Tenderer must submit the original money receipt for purchasing tender, attested copy of Value Added Tax registration certificate and attested copy of TIN certificate regarding payment of income tax. Otherwise tenders will be treated as rejected.

Any attestation should be done by class I gazetted official. If more than one lowest tenderer is found in the tender then in order to select 1 (One) contractor a lottery will be held on 11/7/2000 at 11:00 am in the office room of the undersigned. All or his/her nominated representatives are requested to remain present in the said lottery.

Md Abdul Ghani  
Executive Engineer  
Barisal Public Works Division Barisal  
Phone No. 52143



Among others, BNP leader Abul Hossain, Awami League leader M A Rouf Pata, general secretary of the local business men's association Anisur Rahman, Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal leaders Sajidur Rahman Bacchhu, Ersadur Rahman Niru and Mostafa Lelun spoke on the occasion.

Cement price up in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 24: The price of cement has gone up abnormally in different markets in the town in recent days, hampering construction works.

Cement is now selling at Tk 275 to Tk 285 a bag weighing 50 kg in the markets against Tk 235 to Tk 240 a few days ago.

With the increase of price of cement, construction works in both private and public sectors have been facing setback.

As many construction works are suspended, a large number of day labourers, especially masons and their assistants, are out of employment here.

Advocacy programme

From Our Correspondent  
FENI, June 24: An advocacy programme organised by Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) was held here recently.

The programme was organised to create awareness in favour of FEMA suggested reforms of electoral law.

Advocate Shahadat Hossain, president of Feni unit of FEMA, read out the suggestions. Secretary of Feni unit of FEMA Ziauddin Salim, Akter Hossain Chowdhury and Tipu Sultan were also present on the occasion.

## News snaps

### Decomposed body recovered

KISHOREGANJ, June 24: Kishoreganj thana police recovered an unknown decomposed body of a young man from the Narsunda river last week, reports BSS.

The police source said the victim might be killed by strangulation. After recovering the body was sent to the local hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Pipegun recovered

SHARIATPUR, June 24: A contingent of Bhedarganj thana police, acting on a tip-off, raided village Koneshwar recently and recovered a pipe-gun in an abandoned condition from the house of Selam Sikder, reports BSS.

OC Akram Ali led the police contingent during the raid. None was arrested in this connection.

### Vegetables cultivation

SATKHIRA, June 24: A total of 3,400 hectares has been brought under vegetables cultivation with a production target of 42,500 tonnes in seven upazillas in the current dry season, according to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, reports BSS.

Of the total land, 1,200 hectares have been brought under cultivation in Satkhira sadar, 350 hectares in Kalirao, 900 hectares in Tala, 100 hectares in Debhata, 550 hectares in Kalliganj, 100 hectares in Assamuni and 200 hectares in Shyamnagar. The vegetables to be cultivated include brinjal, sweet pumpkin, lady's finger, etc.

### Youth beaten to death

LALMONIRHAT, June 24: A man allegedly beat his nephew to death in a clash at Barobari in sadar upazila early on Monday, reports UNB.

Villagers said Alam, 22, was killed by his uncle Hamid Master over a land dispute. Outraged by the incident, a section of villagers later damaged the house of Hamid Master. In another incident, police recovered the unclothed body of a 24-year-old unidentified woman from Bhatabari in Aditnagar upazila on the day. The ill-fated woman was suspected to have been killed by miscreants after rape.

### Price-hike demanded

THAKURGAON, June 24: A meeting of sugarcane growers was held on Thursday at the Training Complex of Thakurgaon Sugar Mills, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by M Yunus Ali, President Sugarcane Growers' Welfare Association, Amjad Hossain and M Ruhul Amin, President and General Secretary respectively of the Sugarcane Growers Association, Baharul Alam, Managing Director and Nurul Islam GM (Agril), respectively of Thakurgaon Sugar Mills, M Mafizuddin Ahmed, Vice-President and Abdur Rahman, Joint Secretary of Thakurgaon Sugar Mills Employees Union spoke in the meeting. The meeting in a resolution, demanded the price of sugarcane be raised from Taka 37 to Taka 47 per maund for the increased production of sugarcane as well as sugar and to compete with the prices of other crops.



Risky road: Langalbandh-Magura road which runs via Sreepur is one of the important roads in Jhenidah and Magura districts. The road became unfit for traffic movement long ago. Though the road was repaired earlier, but it did not last due to faulty work. Photo shows a bus which is plying on the road at risk at village Goyaspur in Magura district.

— Star photo by Delwar Kabir

### Undertrial prisoner dies

BOGRA, June 24: An under-trial prisoner, who was undergoing treatment in police custody at Mohammad Ali Hospital, died on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Mostafiz alias Mosta Hujur, 45, who had been suffering from liver-cirrhosis, was admitted to the hospital on June 8. Mostafiz, a top terror was caught red-handed along with a revolver in March 1999, police said.

### Body recovered

SHARIATPUR, June 24: The body of a 30-year-old widow was recovered from a canal in Bhedarganj thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said a group of unidentified miscreants called the young woman of Kapaspara village in Naria thana out of her house on Tuesday and killed her in a desolate spot after gang rape. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Housewife commits suicide

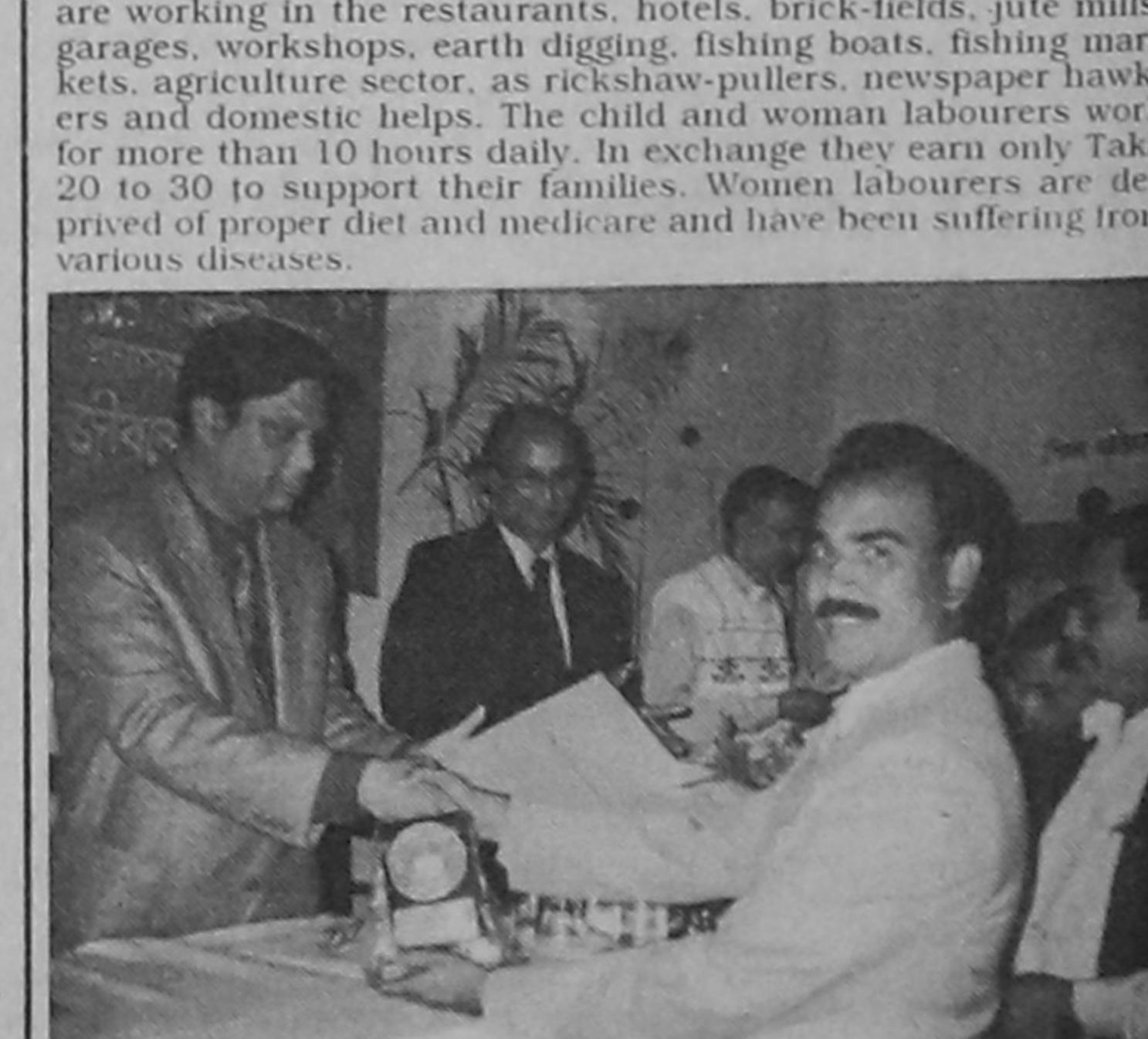
BARGUNA, June 24: A housewife allegedly committed suicide at village Ruhita in Patharghat upazila on Wednesday following a family feud, reports UNB.

Haowa, 20, daughter of Abdul Gani of same village, killed herself by taking poison as her husband Saghir wanted to divorce her, family sources said. A UD case was filed with Patharghat police.

### Child labourers increasing

NARSINGDI, June 24: The number of child and woman labourers is gradually increasing in the different areas of especially in the town areas, reports BSS.

The poor children and women have been compelled to engage themselves for earning living of their family members. It is learnt from reliable sources that about 10,000 children and women labourers out of the total population 17 lakh are engaged in different jobs. Most of the children and women labourers are working in the restaurants, hotels, brick-fields, jute mills, garages, workshops, earth digging, fishing boats, fishing markets, agriculture sector, asrickshaw-pullers, newspaper hawkers and domestic helps. The child and woman labourers work for more than 10 hours daily. In exchange they earn only Taka 20 to 30 to support their families. Women labourers are deprived of proper diet and medicare and have been suffering from various diseases.



Benazir Ahmed, Head Master of Magura Government High School has been adjudged the Best Headmaster in Magura district for the year 1999. In the picture, the successful headmaster receiving a crest from Faruk Ahmed Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) at a function in Magura recently.

— Star photo