

National

Rangpur
newsmen's
protest

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 19: Journalists of different national, regional, local dailies and weeklies here on Tuesday brought out a silent procession in protest against killing of journalist Shamsur Rahman recently.

The processionists paraded the streets of the town carrying banners. Later on they staged a sit-in in front of the offices of Deputy Commissioner and Police Super of Rangpur. They submitted memoranda to them requesting to send the memoranda immediately to the Home Minister for taking prompt action to bring culprits to book.

Speaking at the gathering the speakers condemned the killing and termed it an attack on freedom of press and said that the journalists community had been suffering from insecurity following barbarous killing of a dedicated journalist like Shamsur Rahman.

They also protested sheer indifference of police in arresting the culprits involved in the incident. They demanded immediate police step to ensure security of local journalists.

The protest rally was organised under the auspices of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity.

Phensidyl
recovered:
3 arrested

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 19: Police arrested three people and recovered 705 bottles of phensidyl from their possession at the West toll plaza.

A squad of police arrested Salama Khatun, 34, wife of Abdul Karim, Azizur Rahman, 45, son of Shamsuddin both from Dinajpur and Monirul Islam, 46, son of Golam Mandal of Rajshahi.

They were arrested by police at the West End of Bangabandhu Bridge on Sunday at about 4-40 pm.

Police seized the contraband and arrested the three for their alleged involvement of carrying it.

A freedom
fighter
in distress

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, July 19: Here is the painful story of a Freedom Fighter who was awarded 'Bir Protik' for his bravery during the Liberation War in 1971, is now a defeated soldier.

Habibul Khalilur Rahman has now been struggling a grim battle for survival. He has been living in great hardship.

Now he is landless and suffering from complicated diseases. His wife is also in a sickbed for a long time. She has no proper treatment facility.

Khalilur Rahman was a member of the East Bengal Regimental Centre at Sholoshahor in Chittagong in 1971. He fled away from the cantonment and joined the Liberation War. He fought in Sector No-One.

Bangladesh Government awarded him the gallantry award of 'Bir Protik' for his bravery during our Liberation War. After the liberation of Bangladesh he joined the Bangladesh Army and was promoted to Habildar.

During Ershad's regime he was completed to take forced retirement without pension and other facilities.

Now he has been urging the government to mitigate his sufferings.

Two killed in
Moulvibazar
road accident

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, July 19: Two people were killed and 45 others injured in a bus accident on Moulvibazar-Kulaura road near Lohailuni Tea Garden under Kulaura upazila on Thursday.

One of the dead was identified as Md Saju 20. Identification of another victim, a child, could not be known.

According to police, the accident occurred when a Kulaura-bound passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch after the driver lost control.

The injured were rushed to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital and Kulaura Upazila Health Complex. A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

Tk 170-cr programme to salvage
North Bengal Paper Mills

PABNA, July 19: Dogged by staggering losses for the last 26 years, authorities have taken up a BMRE programme, involving Tk 170 crore, to salvage the sinking North Bengal Paper Mills (NBPM), reports UNB.

The BMRE programme is expected to begin within a month or two.

Official sources said NBPM, the lone paper mill in the northern region, incurred a loss of Tk 216 crore from 1975 till June this year, raising its overdue loan to Tk 30 crore.

Although the mill has the capacity to produce 60 metric tons of paper a day, it now produces only 25-30 mts, the officials said.

They said highest 11,571 mts of papers were produced in 1993-94 fiscal against its annual target of 15,000 mts.

Now its annual production volume has reduced to 7,500 mts due to fall in production capacity of its paper machines, crisis of raw materials, water and necessary funds.

Set up in 1970 on 133.54 acres land on the bank of the Padma at Pakshi in Iswardi upazila, the sick mill has 131 officials and 1,138 workers.

However, the authorities in their efforts to keep on produc-

tion in the mill have introduced recycling process for producing pulp with waste papers.

It now produces 20-25 mts recycled pulp with waste papers everyday, bringing down its monthly loss to Tk 40 lakh from Tk one crore.

"Even though it is considered a sick unit, the mill has a bright prospect as its present production capacity can be raised to 40 mts a day," said an NBPM official declining to be named.

He said production cost of the mill would also come down substantially after the installation of gas facility in it replacing furnace oil use. It will also help give a

further boost to pulp supply from nearby sugar mills, he added.

Talking to the news agency, the NBPM Managing Director said now the mill needs working capital of Tk 10 crore to keep it operative. "I have already requested the government for this," he said.

Meanwhile, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, addressing a function here recently, said the government would provide part of the Tk 170 crore the mill needs for its BMRE.

"Negotiations are also on with donor agencies for the rest of the fund," the minister had told the function reaffirming government's resolve to make it profitable.

Erratic
power
supply in
Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, July 19: Erratic power supply has multiplied the sufferings of people here.

The residents in the town usually experience power outage twice or thrice every day.

Besides, frequent voltage fluctuation often causes damage to TV sets, refrigerators, cassette players, fans and other electronic goods.

Production in mills and factories also has come down because of irregular power supply.

Power disruption is also hampering water supply in the municipality area.

News snaps

Snatching

BAGERHAT, July 19: A female BRAC employee was robbed of Tk 6,000 in Chitolmari upazila on Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said BRAC field worker Shahana Sultana fell prey to the muggers while she was returning to her office drawing the money from the NGO's Shilpur centre. A case was filed.

Open sale of liquor

BAGERHAT, July 19: Illegal liquor and narcotic substances are openly being sold at Mongla Port and its adjoining areas after unloading from foreign ships, reports UNB.

Port sources said the narcotics smugglers have become active during the last few days following arrival of a foreign ship at the port. The smugglers unloaded huge illegal alcohol, including 400 crates of Vintun, beer, 300 casks of Boss whisky, and cigarettes, during the last five days from the ship and selling those openly. MV Ranyang Namshang, a Korean flag-carrier ship, berthed at the port on June 13 carrying cement and the contrabands.

Misappropriation

KISHOREGANJ, July 19: District Anti-corruption office has filed a case against a contractor and a former sub-assistant engineer of local municipality for misappropriating government money, reports UNB.

According to the case filed with Sadar thana police contractor Saiful Islam and former sub-assistant engineer of the municipality now posted at Laxmipur Municipality, Abdul Mannan, embezzled over Tk 1.15 lakh from the municipality fund in fiscal 1993-94. Mannan without lawful authority changed the original estimate of Tk 57,000 and raised it to Tk 1,32,411 for the construction of sheds at Babazabaz dry fish area in the town and gave work order to the accused contractor in fiscal 1993-94. Besides, they drew Tk 40,074 against an imaginary bill for mosaic works of the sheds. After a lengthy investigation the anti-corruption inspector Iqbal Hossain filed the case recently.

T-Aman cultivation programme

BRAHMANBARIA, July 19: The Agriculture Extension Department, Brahmanbaria has taken up an extensive Transplant Aman Cultivation Programme here during the current season, reports BSS.

According to the District Agriculture Extension Office, 13,000 hectares have been brought under high yielding variety and 11,000 hectares under local variety. The target of production has been fixed at 29,380 tonnes of high yielding variety and 16,280 tonnes of local variety of paddy. Upazila-wise break up of lands brought under the programme is as follows: 5200 hectares of High Yielding Variety (HYV) and 5,100 hectares of local variety in Brahmanbaria Sadar, 700 hectares of HYV and 1100 hectares local variety in Nasirganj, 1200 hectares of HYV and 1600 hectares local variety in Sarail, 400 hectares HYV and 1,300 hectares local variety in Kasba, 600 hectares HYV and 800 hectares local variety in Nabiganj, 10 hectares HYV and 90 hectares local variety in Bancharampur and 1290 hectares HYV and 1,010 hectares local variety in Akhaura upazila.

Two abductors convicted

FENI, July 19: A special court here on Thursday convicted two people and sentenced them to life term imprisonment in absentia for abducting a college girl, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts Zafar Iqbal and Dulal Chandra Nath Tk 5,000 each and they will have to suffer six months' more RI in default. Eleven other accused of the case were acquitted. According to the case history, the convicts along with their accomplices stormed the residence of Akbar Hossain of Swarajpur village in Sonagazi upazila on October 14, 1997 and kidnapped his college-going daughter Rahela Akhter Polly, 17, at gunpoint. Her marriage was scheduled for the next day. A case was then filed with local police station and police rescued the girl from Gazipur district on Oct 18, 1997. Police submitted charge-sheets against 13 people on February 8, 1998 under PSA. The District and Sessions Judge, who is also the Judge of the tribunal, handed down the punishment after examining the records and witness on July 6.

Life term for 7 killers

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 19: A court here has sentenced seven people to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a murder case recently, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months RI more. According to the prosecution, Arjed Ali and his supporters of Rasheda village in Shibganj upazila killed Khairul, a day labourer of the same village on August 2, 1993. After examining records and witnesses, the Additional District and Sessions Judge pronounced the judgement on June 19.

Vacancy

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 19: Some 131 posts of physicians and health workers out of 453 have long been lying vacant in different hospitals of 13 lakh population, reports UNB.

Sources at the Civil Surgeon office said 27 posts of physicians out of 75 could not be filled up due to shortage of doctors and 104 posts out of 378 field-level health workers also remained vacant in the hospitals. When contacted Civil Surgeon Dr Mujibur Rahman said steps are underway to fill up the vacant posts.

Housewife burnt alive

JESSORE, July 19: A young housewife, said to be an epilepsy patient, fell on an oven and burnt alive at village Balarampur in Bagerpura upazila recently, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, Arjuna Begum, 25, fell on the oven while cooking in her kitchen last week. She was rushed to Sadar hospital where she died one hour after her admission. In another incident, a middle aged man died after overeating jackfruits at Pathkhal village in Sharsha upazila on July 12. Villagers said Habibur Rahman, 40, took excessive jackfruits on bet with one of his fellow-villagers and died at Jessore Hospital 10 hours after admission.

Girl raped

BAGERHAT, July 19: A teenage girl was raped allegedly by the Imam of a mosque at Moroldanga village in Fakirhat upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said the Imam, Abdus Sakur, tactfully took the girl, daughter of a day labourer, to his house and rape her there. Sakur is absconding. A case was filed.

Memo submitted

KHAGRACHHARI, July 19: Combined Student Action Council (CSAC) on Monday brought out a procession and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner for sending it to the Education Minister to realise its six-point demand, reports UNB.

Their demands include introduction of BSC pass and honours courses in the Khagrachhari Government College. Hundreds of students from various educational institutions carrying placards joined the procession and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. After the procession, a rally was held at the local Government High School ground.

Naimul murder still a mystery

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 19: Police could not yet make any tangible progress in unfolding the mystery of the sensational Naimul Huq murder case although 10 months have already elapsed, reports UNB.

Businessman Naimul Huq, 45, was killed by unknown assailants at his residence in the town at dead of night on August 21, 1999. His wife filed a case with Sadar thana accusing one Firoz Kabir of killing his husband. The case was handed over to Detective Branch in October the same year. But DB was learnt to have submitted its final report without unfolding the mystery of the murder. When contacted investigation officers of the case Inspector Wazed Ali eschewed comments.

Chinese silk seized : 4 held

BAGERHAT, July 19: Police arrested four people along with 400 kgs of Chinese silk worth about Tk four lakh from Pacha Dighirpur in Sadar upazila on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Khagendra Devnath, Abdul Hamid, Abu Zafar and Idris Ali of Jessore as they tried to smuggle out the silk to India from Mongla port in two microbuses.

Alleged terrorists arrested

NARAYANGANJ, July 19: Two alleged terrorists were arrested along with a sophisticated pistol and bullets from Pagla Shahi Bazaar here early Monday, reports UNB.

The arrested Akhter Hossain and Mahmud were said to be the associates of local terror Tofazzal.



Sylhet is famous for bamboo and cane products. While cane products have found a place in the markets and households, bamboo products such as hats, baskets, bowls and other useful articles are must for the farmers and villagers for their day to day activities. Picture shows two villagers at Haripur in Sylhet going for a day's business with useful bamboo wears.

--Star photo by AKM Mohsin

37 Shibir activists arrested
in Rajshahi so far

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 19: Police arrested a teacher of Ideal College, Saiful Islam, who is also a former activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) from Shahab Bazaar area on Tuesday.

The number of Shibir activists arrested so far here after the Chittagong killings stood at 37.

Meanwhile, police started searching all persons including teachers, students, officials and workers at the entry points of Rajshahi University from Tuesday as a part of their combing operation to nab Shibir activists.

The combing operation of police has created resentment and disappointment among teachers, student and officials of the university. Many of them argued with police during search

operations. All-Party Action Committee, Rajshahi unit at an emergency meeting on Tuesday, condemned police action on innocent people and students in the name of arresting 'Shibir terrorists'. Arrested of Shibir activists without any specific allegation is violation of law, they observed.

All-Party Students Unity, Rajshahi unit leaders in a joint statement condemned the country-wide police action on Shibir and JCD activists and demanded release of their arrested activists.

Islami Chhatra Shibir in a separate statement condemned the Rajshahi University authorities and police actions for creating panic and unrest in and around the university campus

and demanded immediate release of their arrested activists.

Meanwhile, a group of the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists, seriously injured former secretary of Bagmara upazila unit of Chhatra Shibir on Monday evening at Taherpur Bazaar.

They suddenly attacked Shibir leader Rezaul Karim and mercilessly chopped him with sharp weapons. He was left there unconscious.

Local people rescued him and sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition.

No case was filed in this regard till filing of this report at 8:00 PM on Tuesday.

Electricity goes to Nayakandi
village in Chandpur dist

MOTLAB (Chandpur), July 19: The present government is committed to changing the lot of the rural people by bringing them under power network for industrialisation of the country. Minister of State of Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said here on Friday, reports BSS.

"Electricity will create jobs and make the rural economy industry-oriented which will play a significant role in our national economy," he said this at a function organised to give power connection to Nayakandi village in Motlab upazila.

With inauguration of the connection, the number of subscribers of Motlab Upazila Palli Bidyut Samity rose to 14,000.

The minister said poverty alleviation was the main target of the present government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and she had been relentlessly working to create jobs for unemployed

youths to this end. Presided over by General Manager of the Chandpur Palli Bidyut Samity Abdul Warid, the function was addressed, among others, by Awami League Central Committee member Prof Mollah Mohammad Riyasatullah and Chairman of Baganbari Union Sirajul Islam spoke on the occasion.

Maya asked the villagers to pay electricity bills in time and suggested using it carefully.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, a family feud ended in the suicide of a housewife at Kashipur village in Sadar upazila recently.

Police said Jahanara Begum, 40, wife of Ismail Hossain, took her own life by taking pesticide after a family feud.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Five commit suicide
in four districts

Five people committed suicide in Barisal, Chapainawabganj, Kishoreganj and Gopalganj districts recently, report agencies.

In Barisal, a teenage boy committed suicide by taking pesticides at Ramsiddhi village in Gournadi upazila on Thursday.

Police said Nepal Shil, 18, took his own life following a quarrel with his elder brother over planting a tree at their courtyard.

He was rushed to the Gournadi Health Complex where he died. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, a family feud ended in the suicide of a housewife at Kashipur village in Sadar upazila recently.

Police said Jahanara Begum, 40, wife of Ismail Hossain, took her own life by taking pesticide after a family feud.

The body was sent to hospital

morgue for autopsy.

A family feud ended in the suicide of a teenage housewife at Ranigarh village in sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj district recently.

Police said Erina, 16, wife of Tohrul and daughter of Giasuddin, took her own life by taking poison after a brawl with her in-laws.

But her father alleged that she was murdered.

In Kishoreganj, a young housewife has allegedly committed suicide at her father's residence at Nansree village in Karimganj upazila.

Police said Lasu, 18, took her own life by swallowing poison at night. Earlier, on the day, she refused to go back to her husband's house.

The body was sent to the Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Gopalganj, a boy committed suicide by taking poison in Tungpara upazila.

Police and family sources said Nabin Molla, 12, son of Shahjahan Molla, of Sree Ramkandi village took his own life by taking pesticide over a family feud. Separate UD cases were lodged in these connections.

Punishment
to killers of
Kazi Aref
demanded

From Our Correspondent

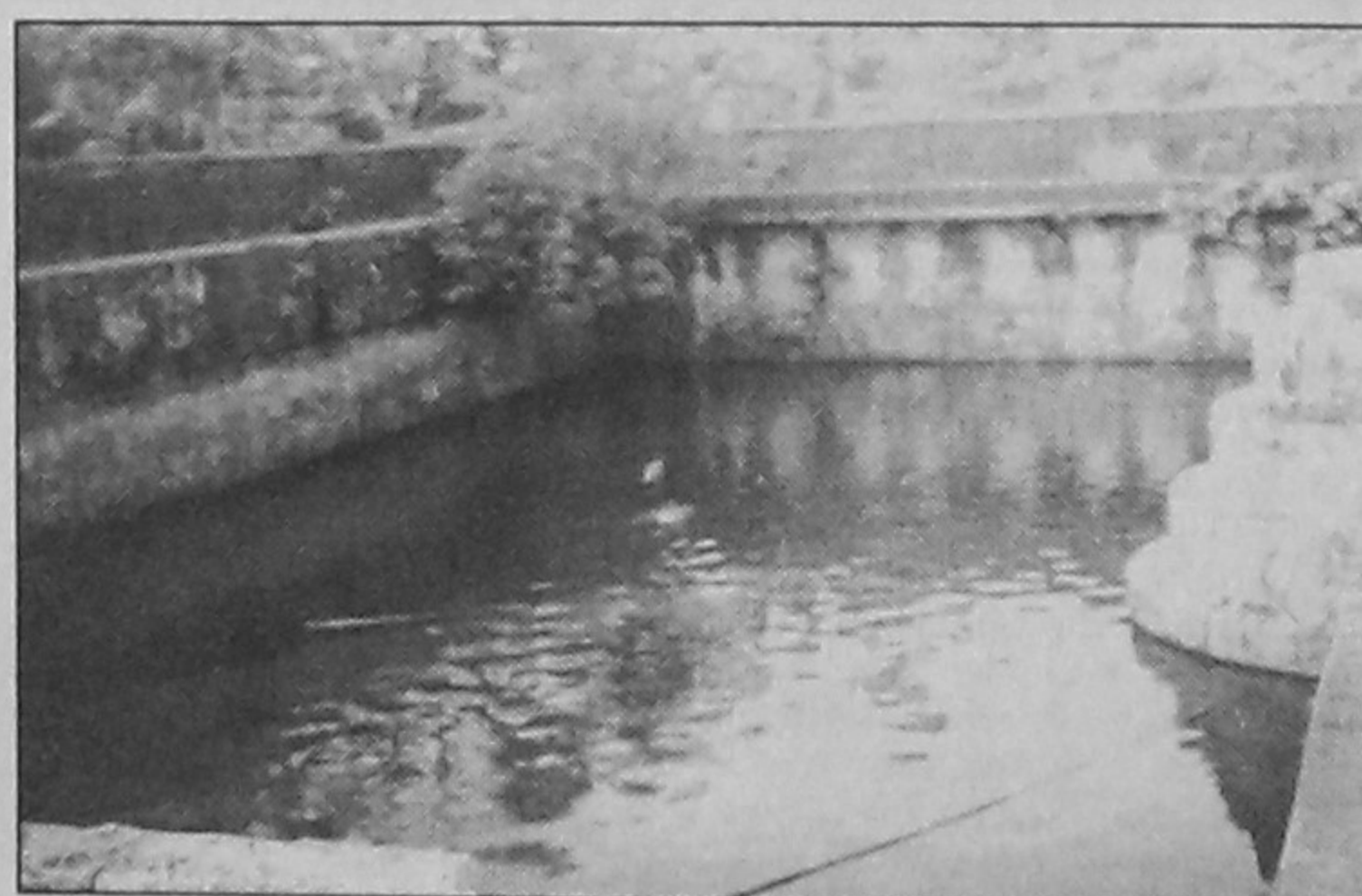
KUSHITA, July 19: Rawson Jahan Sathi, wife of late Kazi Aref Ahmed, said killing of JSD leader Kazi Aref and others at a public meeting was not an ordinary event but a planned killing.

She said many people, who are known at the national, are also responsible for the incident. She, however, did not elaborate.

Rawson Jahan Sathi was speaking at a public meeting organised by Kazi Aref Parishad here at Kushita Public Library ground recently.

President over by Prof Rashidur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Syed Hasan Imam, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Bidhan Krishna Sen, Kamal Pasha Choudhury, Syed Anwarul Huq, Sirajul Huq, Dildar Barun and Firoj Al Mamun.

Other speakers demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.



A view of ground water tank of the plant.

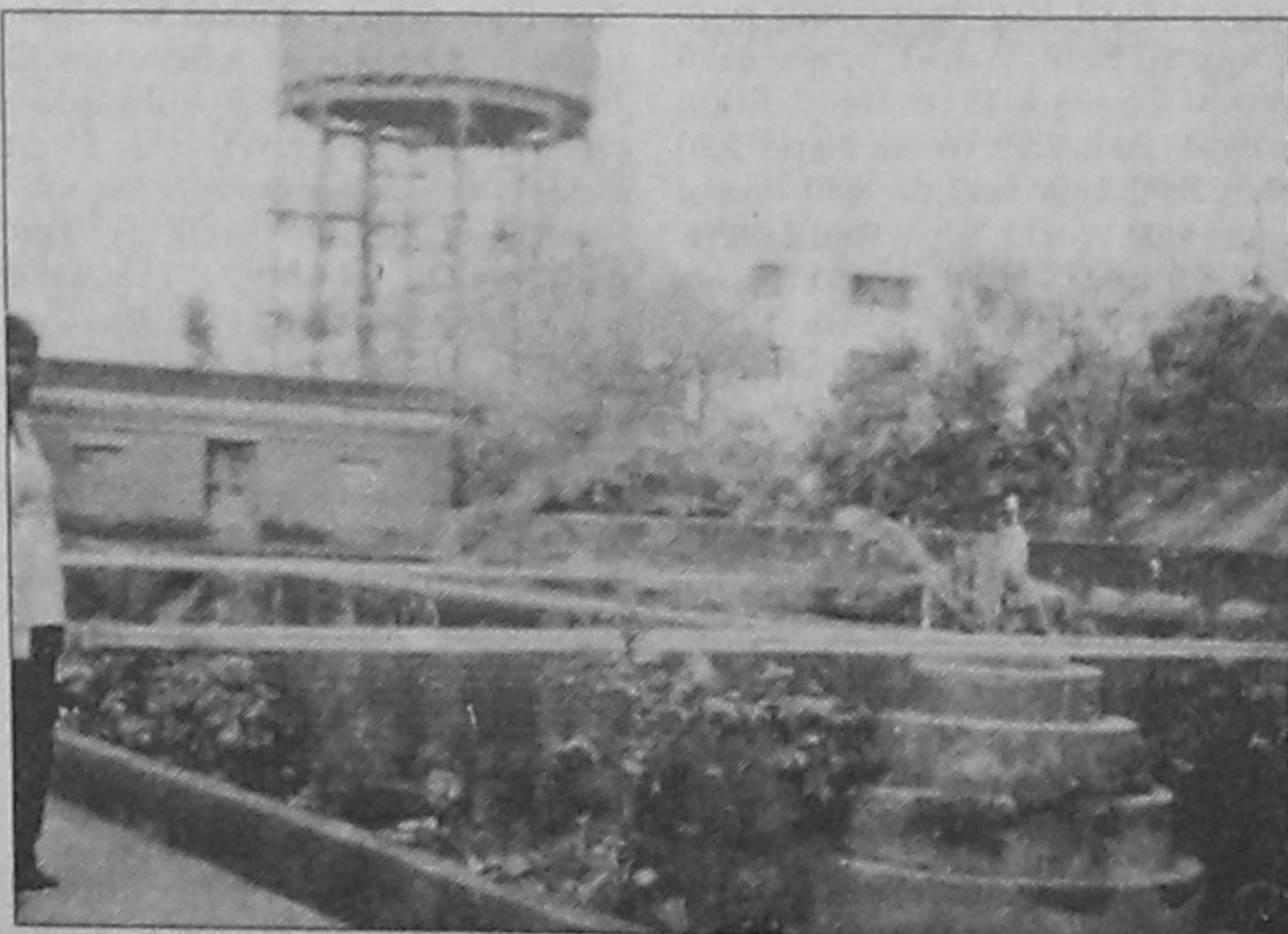
--Star photo

The plant had the capacity to supply eight lakh gallons of water every day.

Mymensingh municipality authorities, which later took the responsibility of looking after the plant, have failed to perform duties properly, local people said.

They have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate measures to renovate the plant.

According to popular story, ailing Queen Raj Rajeshwari, wife of the Zamindar, wanted to drink water, but water was not given to



A partial view of the water treatment plant.

--Star photo