

Upazila roundup

BOGRA

UZ Chairman, engineer hurt in clash

June 3: Dhupchanchia Upazila Chairman and one Sub-Assistant Engineer were injured following a clash between two rival groups Thursday, reports UNB. Sources said, Kalayan Prasad Poddar turned out Sarwar Hossain the engineer from his office for some unknown reasons. Later Sarwar came back with his men and allegedly assaulted the chairman. Sarwar was also injured when the chairman's supporters attacked him. Two separate cases were filed in Dhupchanchia police.

KUSHTIA

Smuggled goods recovered

June 3: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka 1.28 lakh and arrested a man in this connection, reports UNB. BDR arrested Moula Baksh from Paragpur border areas and recovered 10 tolas of gold worth about Taka 85,000 from his possession recently. BDR jawans also seized contrabands including 149 pieces of sarces and 120 metres of cloth worth about Taka 43,000 recently from Ramkrishnapur border areas. The goods were later handed over to local customs authorities.

JHENIDAH

Customs earn Tk 2 cr revenue

June 3: The customs and excise departments, Jhenidah range comprising Magura and Jhenidah districts earned Taka 2,00,57,301 during the first half of the 1990-91 fiscal year, reports BSS. The break up of the revenue earned is as follows: Taka 6,65,553 from cinema halls, Taka 49,400 from jewellery, Taka 55,30 from brick manufacturers, Taka 8,91,287 from cotton yarn, Taka 3,87,268 from medicine, Taka 5,544 from textile mills, Taka 1,100 from furniture shops, Taka 1,79,47,907 from sugar, Taka 10,323 from bidi, Taka 17,668 from video shops and Taka 5,951 from miscellaneous sources.

FENI

Storm lashes 4 upazilas

June 3: A cyclonic storm following the depression in the Bay of Bengal, hit four upazilas of the district early hours of Sunday, reports UNB. The storm with a wind speed of 60 kmp from 4 am to 8 am Sunday morning lashed Sonagazi, Parshuram, Chhagalniya and Mirsharhat upazilas. Three to four feet high tidal bore swept the low lying char areas of Sonagazi upazila but reports of damages and casualties were not immediately available as tele link between the Sadar and four upazilas remained cut off following the storm. Electric poles of Rural Electrification Board in the affected upazilas were learned to have been uprooted and power supply in the town remained suspended. Mahbulul Alam Tara, Sangsad Whip along with officials of the district administration went to the affected areas to assess the extent of damages caused by the storm.

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MANIKGANJ

Nor'wester damages 32 educational institutions

June 3: Thirty-two educational institutions were damaged by nor'wester and erosion of the river Jamuna in Daulatpur upazila of the district during the last three weeks, reports UNB. According to official sources, thousands of students have been attending their classes under the sky in absence of sheds and classrooms as no scheme has yet been taken to reconstruct these institutions. According to the Chairman of Daulatpur Upazila Parishad, 29 primary schools, two high schools and one college were damaged by the recent calamities affecting about 6,500 students. Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate programme to reconstruct the damaged educational institutions.

SATKHIRA

Ganja plant seized

June 3: Acting on a secret information the members of the law enforcing agencies seized huge quantities of ganja and siddhi (bhang) plants worth about Taka three lakh from Itagacha area of Satkhira town recently, reports BSS. Police said contraband ganja plant was cultivated on a plot of land of one Mobarak Ali. He is now absconding. A case has been registered in this connection.

4 die of dysentery

Four people died of dysentery in the district since the recent outbreak of the disease, family sources said. The victims were identified as Hasina (3), daughter of Morshed of Moutala village, Khuku (11), daughter of Shamsuddin of North Moutala village, Kena Gazi (52), of Mukundapur and Abdul Hamid (50), a peon of Barashimla High School in Kaliganj upazila. District Civil Surgeon, however, did not confirm the death report.

RAJSHAHI

First year honours classes begin

June 3: The first year honours classes of 1990-91 session of Rajshahi University began here Saturday, reports UNB. A total of 3080 students were admitted to 29 departments this year and the freshers passed the first day of university life amid much enthusiasm. The university also introduced Pharmacy department this year with 12 students.

Death anniversary

The fourth death anniversary of Jami Akhter Ratan, Chhatra Mottree President of Rajshahi Medical College was observed here Saturday. The Chhatra Mottree unit of the Rajshahi University brought out a silent mourning procession at Lichutala in the campus. Later a discussion meeting was held in this connection in which the speakers dwelt at length on the life and activities of the late student leader.

MUNSHIGANJ

Beheaded body recovered

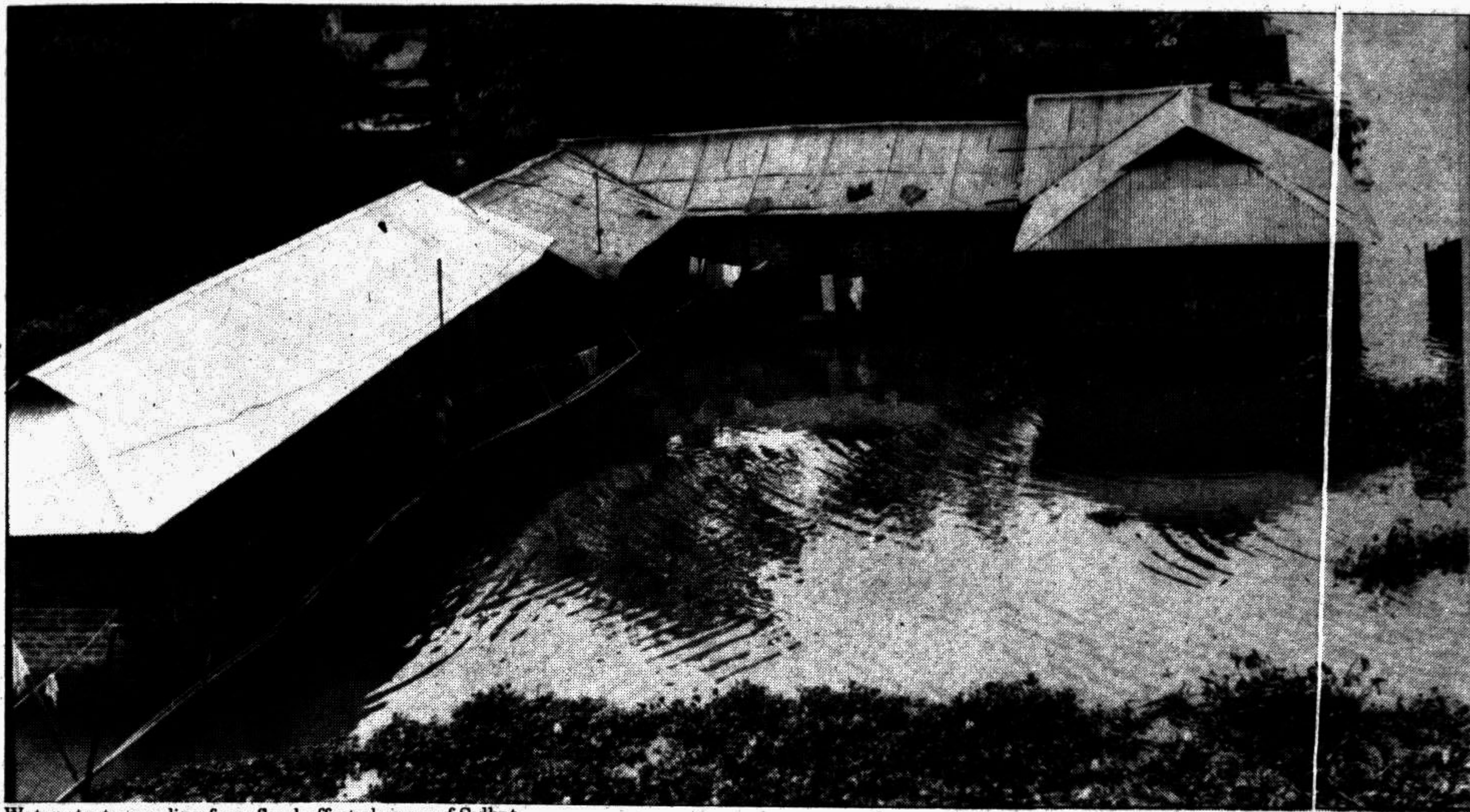
June 3: A beheaded body of a young woman (27) was recovered from a ditch of Bashupara under Bazrajognee Union of Munshigonj Sadar Upazila recently. There were marks of knife injury in her person. One of her hands was found almost cut. The victims body was decomposed and it is apprehended that she had been killed 8-12 days ago. Learning from a Rikshawpuller the Munshigonj Police rushed to the spot and fetched the victim for autopsy. The body was found hidden under Water Hyacinth. She was wearing a petticoat, blouse bra. The beheaded 'Head' of the victim was found in a nearby pond. The O.C. of Munshigonj P.S. told this Correspondent that the causes of this brutal murder could not be ascertained as the body had been decomposed to identify.

Since there was no complainant of this case the O.C. of Munshigonj P.S. himself filed a case (case no.14) in favour of the victim.

GAIBANDEHA

864,700 hectares brought under Aus farming

June 3: Aus paddy has been cultivated in 864,700 hectares of land in different northern districts in the current season, reports BSS. According to Agriculture Extension department, 516,287 hectares have been brought under local variety while 168,347 hectares under high yielding variety. The district-wise break-up of Aus cultivation is as follows: Gaibandha 24,300 hectares, Thakurgaon 27,940 hectares, Nilphamari 24,907 hectares, Kurigram 85,200 hectares, Lalmonirhat 90,800 hectares, Rangpur 67,616 hectares, Dinajpur 62,927 hectares, Panchagarh 31,607 hectares, Chapainawabganj 43,880 hectares, Naogaon 34,561 hectares, Natore 20,700 hectares, Sirajganj 48,845 hectares, Pabna 53,650 hectares and Rajshahi 43,426 hectares. A total of 614 demonstration plots were arranged by the Agriculture Extension Department in these districts to teach the farmers cultivation of BR-20 and other high yielding varieties of Aus.



Water starts receding from flood affected areas of Sylhet.

— Star photo

Cyclone victims migrating to Cox's Bazar town

Lack of coordination hampers relief operation

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, June 3: The cyclone affected people from Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Matarbari and Dalghata has been totally washed away by the cyclone and tidal surge leaving the island completely on the mercy of sea. Not a single semi-pucca or kutcha house is left unaffected. Trees have become reddish due to salinity. Most of the affected people are being provided with relief materials from various sources but shortage of pure drinking water has made their lives miserable. According to the Cox's Bazar Public Health Engineering Department (PHE), 550 tubewells have been allocated on emergency basis for the affected areas and 70 per cent of tubewells have already been sunk in inland areas.

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According to the Civil Surgeon of Cox's Bazar, the diarrhoea situation in the cyclone affected areas is under control. Doctors with sufficient quantity of medicines are trying hard to control the diarrhoea. Army teams are also working. The US relief team comprising marines has started relief work in co-operation with Bangladesh Armed Forces in the district since May 18. An average of 30 tons of cooked food were supplied daily to the cyclone victims. Rice and wheat will be supplied instead of cooked food. Meanwhile, CARE has also started distributing emergency food, water and also building materials in Kutubdia and Moheshkhali. Gono Shastha Kendra of Dhaka has launched

a massive relief operation with relief materials worth Taka one crore. Medicare along with chira (beaten rice), gur, candles, match boxes and about 20,000 ehatpies are distributed among the affected people of the islands. Besides, various political parties, government and non-government organisations, social welfare organisations and student bodies have geared up relief activities in cyclone hit areas. BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Chhatra Shibir, Red Crescent Society, BRAC, ADAB, CARITAS, Oxfam, BDR, Fire Service, Ansar and VDP, Pen Pals Club, Rotary Club and other organisations have already sent relief goods for the affected people.

Chairman held for embezzlement

Chairman of the Barghup Union Parishad under Kutubdia upazila, Saikerullah, was arrested by the police recently on charge of defalcating Taka 1,30,000 from relief fund and misuse of relief goods. According to the sources, Cox's Bazar district administration gave Taka 1,90,000 to the said Chairman for distribution of relief goods among the affected people but he sold the relief goods in the open market on high rates. He was arrested and sent to Cox's Bazar jail. Cyclone affected people of Kutubdia island demanded exemplary punishment to the Chairman.

Erosion threatens Muladi Bandar

BARISAL, June 3: The river Nayabhangani, a tributary of the Meghna has been threatening the existence of Muladi Bandar here creating panic among the people, reports UNB. According to sources, one-third portion of the bandar area has already been engulfed by the surging river. More than a hundred businessmen meanwhile have lost their shops and establishments due to continuous erosion. Besides, hundreds of acres of land including rice mills and dwelling houses have also been washed away by the strong currents of the river rendering many people shelterless. Principal Yunus Khan, State Minister for Education re-

cently visited Muladi Bandar area to assess the extent of damage caused by the river. He assured the people that immediate steps would be taken to check the erosion. Afforestation plan A message from Patuakhali adds: A massive afforestation programme has been taken up in five upazilas to protect coastal areas of the district, official sources said. Sources said April 29 cyclone and tidal surge damaged trees on about 3500 acres of land in Pathargacha, Amtali, Galachipa, Mohipur and Dashmina upazilas. Over one lakh saplings of different varieties of trees will be planted in the areas during the current season under the plan, the sources added.

Fort Grange returns to C'Bazar

Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) ship Fort Grange, which has suspended its cyclone relief operations Saturday and gone to the high seas because of the depression on Sunday returned near the coast off Cox's Bazar to resume its mission, reports UNB. "We are coming back in, having ridden out the storm in open water," said Commander Mike Norman, a senior naval officer coordinating the British relief operations was quoted to have said, a British High Commission press release said. Meanwhile, a bid to salvage one of the ship's four Sea King helicopters, which ditched in the sea while returning from a mission Saturday, had failed because of the impending storm in the Bay.



Relief goods being unloaded from a US Navy air cushion landing craft (LCAC) on the island of Sandwip during Operation Sea Angel.

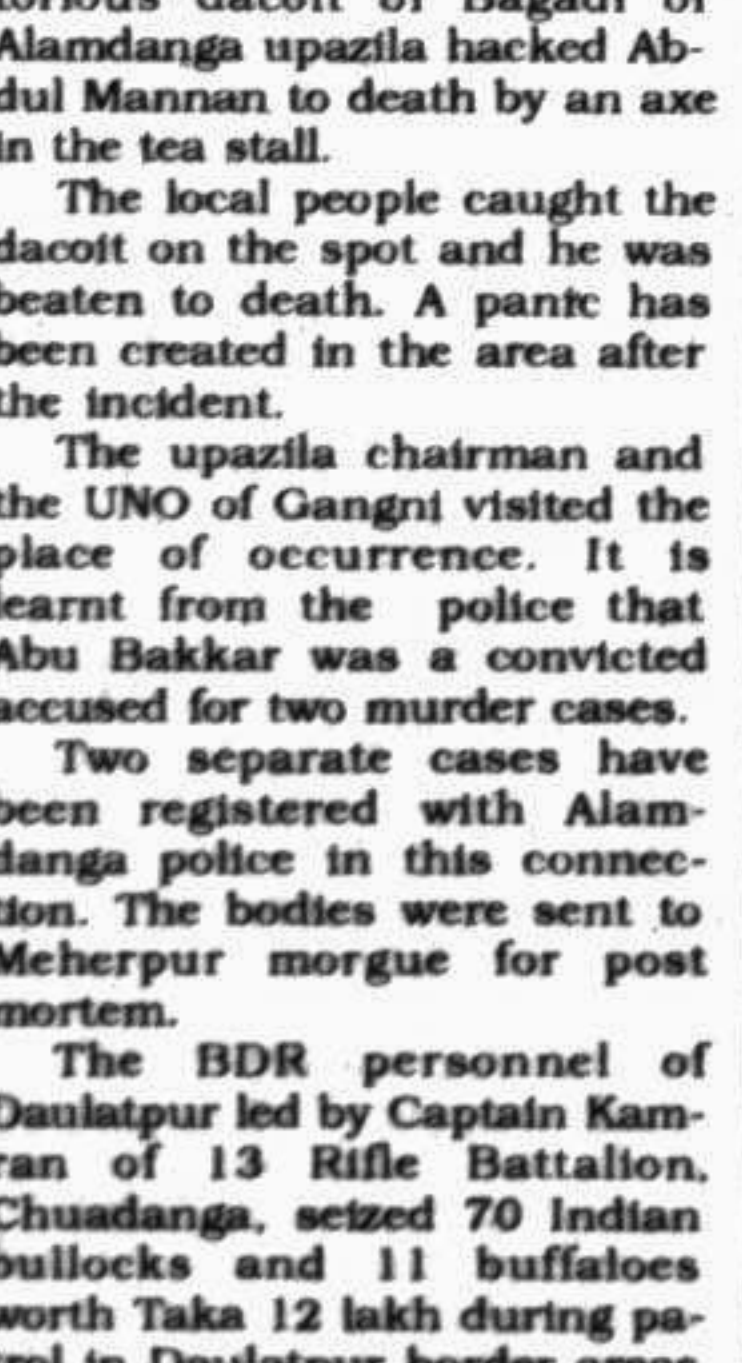
— USIS photo

Crimes galore in districts

MEHERPUR, June 3: A notorious dacoit of Bagadi of Alamdanga upazila was beaten to death by local people recently. Meanwhile, murder, dacoity and anti-social activities have increased in Meherpur and Chuadanga districts during the last few months. It is reported that Abdul Mannan (37) of Amatal, a political worker of Jamaat-e-Islami and a member of Sholataka Union Parishad of Gangni upazila of Meherpur district came to Hat Boalia Bazar of Alamdanga upazila on an urgent work and was purchasing tea. Abu Bakkar, a notorious dacoit of Bagadi of Alamdanga upazila hacked Abdul Mannan to death by an axe in the tea stall. The local people caught the dacoit on the spot and he was beaten to death. A panic has been created in the area after the incident. The upazila chairman and the UNO of Gangni visited the place of occurrence. It is learnt from the police that Abu Bakkar was a convicted accused for two murder cases. Two separate cases have been registered with Alamdanga police in this connection. The bodies were sent to Meherpur morgue for post mortem. The BDR personnel of Daulatpur led by Captain Kamran of 13 Rifle Battalion, Chuadanga, seized 70 Indian bullocks and 11 buffaloes worth Taka 12 lakh during patrol in Daulatpur border areas

of Kushtia district recently. The seized cattleheads were handed over to Kushtia customs for auction. An anti-smuggling meeting was held recently under the chairmanship of Md Mamtazur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Meherpur. A large number of people and high officials were present in the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner requested all concerned to curb smuggling and said that stern action will be taken against persons involved in the smuggling. Our Narail Correspondent

adds: The crime rate in Narail district has registered an upward trend breaching peaceful life of the people. The law enforcing agency seems to have become more active to restore law and order situation following take over of BNP government but no positive result is still evident. Dependable sources say police personnel in most cases succeeded in rounding up the miscreants but later they are compelled to free them. Local people allege that organised gang of criminals carry on their activities under the patronage of some big wigs.



CHITTAGONG: Baiti Khoda Jame Mosque was damaged by April 29 cyclone at Tulatola village of Satkania Upazila.

— Star photo

Notes from Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent MAULVI BAZAR, June 3: Patients are being deprived of medical facilities due to shortage of health employees, creating sufferings to the rural people of the district.

Over 150 posts of health assistants, the post of Health Super, District Sanitary Inspector, E.P.I. supervisor and senior Health Education Officer have been lying vacant since long hampering the functions of the health complexes.

The sufferers urged the concerned authorities to take steps to fulfill the vacancies without further delay.

Power failure Power failure has become a regular feature in the district causing untold sufferings to the consumers.

The industrialists and businessmen are the worst sufferers. Almost everyday power fails twice or three due to defective electric lines. Most transformers are in so bad condition that they are not capable of bearing constant power load.

According to the consumers, improper functioning of PDE electric metre they are compelled to pay enhanced electric bills.

Besides, one fourth area of Maulvi Bazar town is not connected with electric lines. Hundreds of applications for new connections are lying pending.

According to the PDB sources, Maulvi Bazar town has been placed under 18 town distribution project and the work has already been started. The scheme estimated at a cost of six crores Taka includes renovation of existing lines, construction of new lines, three more power substations and 19 sub-stations etc. After the completion of this scheme, the sufferings of the town dwellers will be minimised, the sources added.

Fodder scarcity Acute scarcity of fodder is prevailing in the flood affected areas of the district as fallow lands meant for grazing cattle are still under water. Hundreds of cattleheads have been shifted to the embankment and kept on heaps of water hyacinth.

Farmers fear that if proper measures are not taken cattle disease may break out very soon in flood affected areas.

HBC office needed In absence of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) office at Maulvi Bazar, people of the district are unable to construct new buildings to overcome accommodation problem.

Moreover, the loan disbursement system has become so complex that it takes a long time to avail loan facilities from any bank. After the upgradation of Maulvi Bazar into a district its population has been increased considerably but houses were not constructed proportionately.

Bazars in bad shape Hats and bazars in six upazilas of the district are in pitiable condition for want of proper maintenance.

The problems that impede normal functioning of the markets include shortage of space, indiscriminate erection of sheds, bad drainage system and paucity of pure drinking water.

Space of hats and bazars are not enough to accommodate the customers and sellers. The bazars have not been expanded according to the growing population. Rampant erection of unauthorised sheds has further narrowed the space. Very often water remains stagnant in the bazars due to bad drainage system.

Unauthorised and scattered slaughtering of animals in an unhygienic way has been posing serious threat to the public health in different upazilas of the district. Sick cattle, rams and buffaloes are indiscriminately slaughtered and distributed in different markets.

Money lenders active in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, June 3: Lending of money at high rate of interest has increased in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district throwing the poverty-stricken borrowers into uncertainty. According to the informed sources, a section of money lenders lend money to poor villagers at 20 to 25 per cent interest per month. Farmers and poor villagers borrow money for cultivation and to meet emergency needs by mortgaging their landed property. Money lending has increased in the district due to repeated floods and other natural calamities which affect agricultural production for the last few years.

Action plan to set up food security

LANGOLKOT (Comilla), June 3: State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda has said the government would build up countrywide food security with the active cooperation of the people by boosting agricultural production and increasing the food stock, reports BSS. He said this step of the government would help meet the requirement of additional emergency food demand during the cyclonic storm, flood, tornado and other natural calamities in the country. The State Minister was addressing as chief guest at a large public meeting on the occasion of the inaugural function of newly built food godown there on Sunday. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) constructed the 500-tonne capacity godown at a cost of Taka 75 lakh. The Canadian International Development Agency, Canadian High Commissioner Mr Emile Gouvro, and official of CIDA and the Minister of Food also addressed the public meeting.