

Upazila roundup

DINAJPUR
Dinajpur plagued with problems

From Our Correspondent

Sept 17: Mushroom growth of welding shops beside the main roads is causing immense inconvenience to the residents of the town. A large number of welding shops has sprung up on the roadsides despite government prohibition. The mini-engineering workshops having no valid licences are run round the clock, local people alleged.

Influx of beggars in the town has shattered peace of the people. A large number of poverty-stricken people is rushing to the towns and erecting slums in the open squares causing threat to the public health.

The kutcha latrines are being used on a large scale posing health hazards to the residents. Most of the house owners in densely populated areas have constructed kutcha latrines beside their dwelling houses creating health and sanitation problem.

Besides, there are innumerable kutcha latrines erected beside different roads in pourashava area, much to the annoyance of the pedestrians which always emit bad odour polluting the environment especially during rainy season.

JAMALPUR

Freedom Party meet held

From Our Correspondent

Sept 17: A meeting of the executive committee of the district unit of Freedom Party was held at its office at Bushpara in the town recently. Maulana Abdul Fazal presided over the meeting while it was addressed, among others, by Nurul Haq Jaggi, Abul Mattin, Azizur Rahman, Jamaluddin and Reza Khandokar.

Speakers at the meeting expressed great concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the district. They asked the authorities to start rescue and relief operations immediately in the flood affected areas.

BARISAL
BDS relief for cyclone victims

From Our Correspondent

Sept 17: Barisal Development Society (BDS), a non-government organisation has started distributing CI sheets and other house building materials worth about Taka 17 lakh among the flood and cyclone hit peoples of Gournadi, Agailjhara and Banaripara upazilas of the district.

Liberation War memorial

A meeting of the elite and the leaders of the different organisations held at the Barisal Pourashava auditorium recently decided to build a sculpture 'Jodhya' in memory of Liberation War of 71 in Barisal town.

Presided over by Mr. Ahsan Habib Kamal, Administrator, Barisal Pourashava the meeting was addressed, among others, by Messrs. Hafiz Ahmed, Hameyettuddin Ahmed, Syed Ziauddin Ahmed, Enayet Hossain Chowdhury, Mohiuddin Ahmed Manik, Khalifa Saïdur Rahman, Syed Jahangir, Abdul Gafur and Saha Alam.

SIRAJGANJ
Buses go off roads

From Our Correspondent

Sept 17: Bus service on Sirajganj-Belkuchi route remained stopped since Wednesday morning following a row among students and bus workers which took place Tuesday night at Belkuchi bus stand. When some HSC examinees were going home a quarrel took place on fare issue. The situation turned tense and buses went off roads.

Thousands of passengers are suffering and rickshaw fare jumped abnormally on this route.

MAGURA
Tk 16.38 lakh interest-free loan disbursed

Sept 17: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), a non-government organisation has disbursed interest-free loan of Tk 16.38 lakh among the landless people in four unions of Sadar upazila, reports UNB.

BRAC also set up 25 primary schools in the unions to gear up mass literacy and universal primary education programme during the current fiscal year.

PATUAKHALI
Electrification scheme in progress

Sept 17: Work on rural electrification scheme at a cost of Tk 41 crore in six upazilas of the district is going on in full-swing, reports UNB.

Financed by the World Bank, the scheme includes installation of 13,000 kilometres of new electric transmission line and establishment of six electric sub-stations in the first phase.

When completed, the scheme will provide electricity to 745 villages of 63 unions of the greater Patuakhali district.

The scheme is expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year.

After completion of the scheme, 20,000 new electric connections will be installed in the locality, official sources said.

FENI

2 electrocuted

Sept 17: Two people were electrocuted and another one was killed in three separate incidents in the district over the last week, reports UNB.

According to police, Abdul Mattin (20), of village Bashkipur in Porshuram upazila was electrocuted when he was crossing a sugarcane field recently.

In another incident, Jahangir (32), of village Rauepur in Sadar upazila was electrocuted when he was repairing electric line of his house recently.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of Ruhul Amin (45) of village Sorua in Sadar upazila from Lemua D-B road. Police suspected that he was killed due to old enmity.

Three cases were lodged in this connection.

GAIBANDHA

Jute price further falls

Sept 17: The price of jute is gradually falling in Sadar, Sadullapur, Sundargonj and Saghata upazilas of the district for want of buyers, reports UNB.

Low quality jute is now being sold in different haks of the district between Tk 120 and 130 and tosha variety between Tk 140 and 150 per maund which is much below the production cost.

The situation has turned acute in Dariapur, Laksmipur, Kamarjani and Badakhali hats of Sadar upazila, Kalibari hat of Palaashbari, Dhaferhat of Sadullapur upazila, Bamondanga of Sundargonj and Bharatkhalai of Saghata upazila.

Some jute growers said due to low price, they are compelled to return home from the market with unsold jute.

All the government purchasing centres have not yet started purchasing jute in the district.

It has been reported that the brokers and 'farias' of the local market are propagating the idea that future of jute in Bangladesh was uncertain.

The prices of other essential commodities, on the other hand, are rising up causing untold suffering to the consumers.

NARAIL
Money lenders exploit farmers

Sept 17: Farmers of three upazilas of the district are being exploited by the money lenders taking advantage of their pecuniary hardship, reports UNB.

They are compelled to sell their crops to the money lenders in advance at a nominal price to buy agricultural inputs for cultivation.

A large number of farmer have been passing their days half fed and unfed. Often they sell their utensils and domestic animals, to pay off the money lenders.

The price of bullocks has recorded a sharp fall and about half of the farmers of the district have already sold their draft animals to maintain their livelihood.

Local people urged the au-

thorities to take immediate steps to construct sheds on the bus stands and take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the passengers.

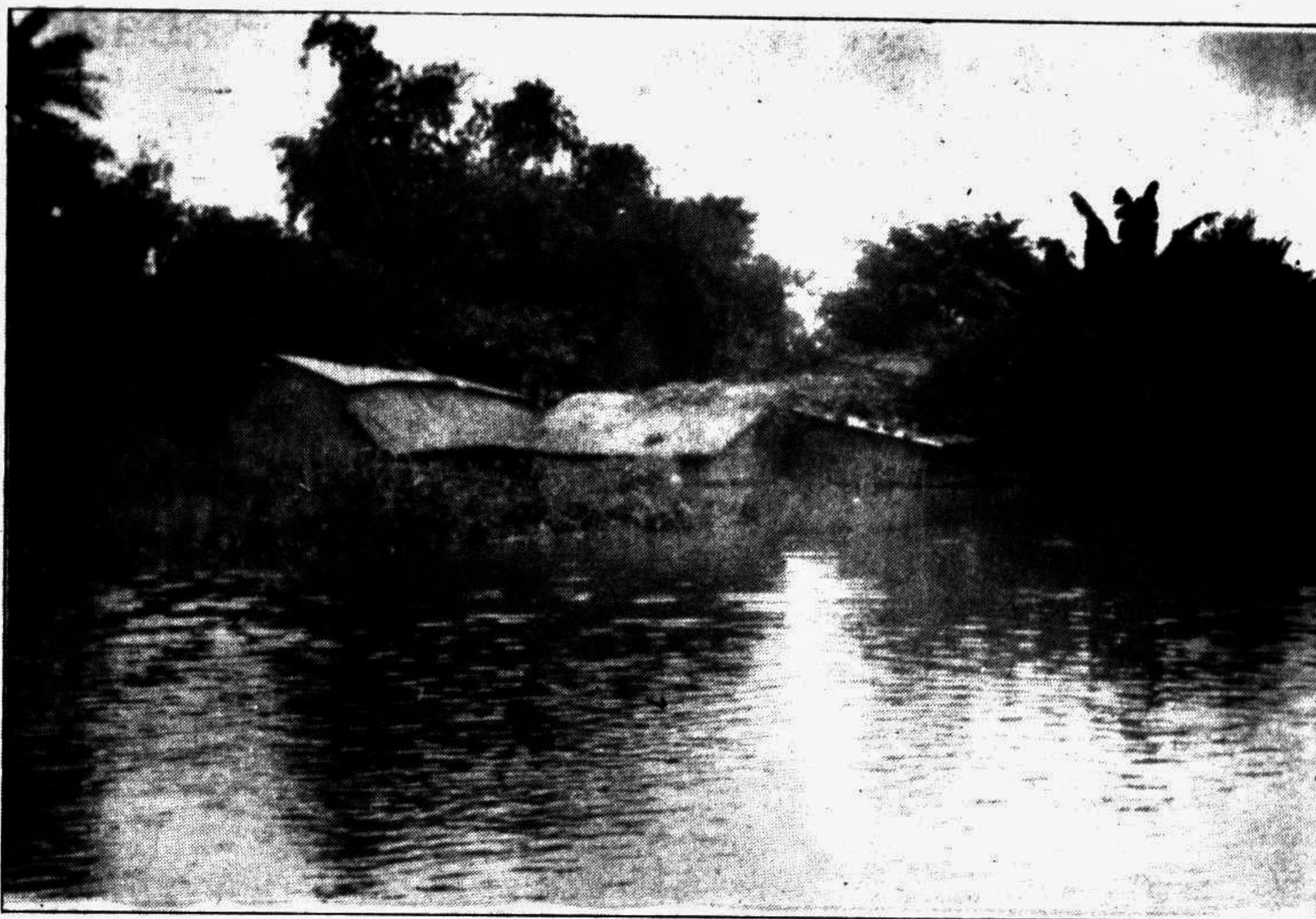
Mosquito menace

Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion causing utmost suffering to the town dwellers and exposing them to serious health hazards in the pourashava area of the district.

According to informed sources, common anti-mosquito oil had proved ineffective and consequently breeding of mosquitoes in the town continues unabated.

Silted drains and stagnant waters all over the poura areas are the ideal breeding grounds of mosquitoes, local people alleged.

They called for adequate and effective measures to eradicate mosquitoes from the areas.



Houses submerged by flood water at a village in Rajshahi.

—Star photo

Flood situation improves

From Our Correspondent

CHAPLAINAWABGANJ, Sept 17: The over all flood situation of the district has marked a slight improvement with the fall of water level in the four rivers of the district. But the incessant rain has enhanced the sufferings of the affected people.

The concerned ministry has sent some relief materials to Chapainawabganj but they are yet to reach the affected areas. About 40 thousand day labourer are almost starving due to lack of jobs in the affected areas.

Meanwhile, the devastating Padma is devouring different important places of Alatali and Narayanpur unions under Sadar upazila and Durlopur union under Shibganj upazila.

About 200 dwelling houses of Raninagar and Chhorasia villages including Alatali Union Parishad office have already been drowned.

At least 200 erosion-hit families of the said villages have taken shelter in the nearest village. The Union Parishad

Chairman has yet to take essential measures to help the distressed people.

Besides, Narayanpur and Durlopur unions are also threatened by the Padma. On the other hand Nimgachhi village of Nawabganj pourashava, Khal Ghat, Ganripura, Shasan Ghat, Kalayanpur village under Nawabganj pourashava area are also threatened by Mahananda's erosion.

Rangpur

Our Rangpur Correspondent adds: The over all flood situation in five districts of greater Rangpur is improving with recession of water in the past two days. At least ten lakh marooned people who took shelter on rail lines embankments and high lands have now started returning home but yet about two lakh flood-hit people are still marooned and passing miserable life. They are suffering from water-borne diseases for want of medicines.

Outbreak of epidemics have been reported from different

places which so far left 25 persons dead. On the other hand flood death toll rose to 30. Scarcity of pure drinking water has deteriorated situation.

Water purifying tablets are not available.

Kushtia

UNB from Kushtia adds: Low areas in the town went under knee-deep water amid incessant rains since Saturday night although flood situation slightly improved in the district with the Ganges and the Gorai falling slowly.

The two rivers were flowing 34 and 40 centimetre above redmark respectively on Sunday.

Low areas of the town, including part of Khodabad Khan Road and Arjun Das Road, are now submerged.

Erosion by the Ganges (Padma) has threatened the Kushtia-Iswardi road near Bheramara Power House.

Relief materials sanctioned so far have not yet been

reached the affected areas of Kumarkhali and Khoksha. Misery of the marooned people in the areas multiplied due to shortage of drinking water, food and other necessities.

The Civil Surgeon told UNB medicines worth Tk 2 lakh had been sanctioned for the district.

Sirajganj

Our Sirajganj Correspondent says: Flood situation in the district has improved a little with fall of water level in the Jamuna. The river is flowing only nine centimetre below redmark. Other small rivers including Fulzor, Karatowa, Bangali, Murasagar and Gumani are still flowing above danger level inundating vast areas of western part of flood control embankment.

More than 80,000 flood affected people of nine upazilas are still marooned.

People of worst hit Kazipur upazila are rushing to Upazila Parishad office for relief materials.

Rash driving leads to accidents

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 17: Bus journey on the Kishoreganj-Karimganj-Chamraghat road has become hazardous.

Bus conductors realise excessive fares from the passengers which very often leads to alteration.

It is alleged that bus drivers do not maintain any timetable. They unnecessarily delay in the journey creating inconvenience to the office goers.

Besides, rash driving, and overloading of buses have become a regular feature which result in serious accidents sometimes. Very often passengers are seen travelling on the roofs and hanging on the door steps taking risk of life.

According to the sources, the drivers are illiterate. Many of them have no valid licences. They use fake names and addresses. As a result, the law enforcing agencies are unable to find out actual drivers responsible for accidents.

The condition of buses plying on the roads is deplorable and often face engine troubles on the way. The number of passengers has increased with rapid increase of population but the authorities are reluctant to introduce more buses to cope with the situation.

The condition of bus terminals is also pitiable. Absence of waiting sheds at Akrampur bus stand is causing much inconveniences to the travellers who remain standing under the open sky even during summer and rainy season.

Local people urged the au-

thorities to take immediate steps to construct sheds on the bus stands and take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the passengers.

Mosquito menace

Mosquito menace in the pourashava areas of the district has assumed an alarming proportion causing sufferings to the town dwellers and exposing them to serious health hazards. Pourashava authorities have failed to provide adequate and effective measures to eradicate the menace.

Conventional methods of spraying mosquito oil has proved ineffective. Besides, silted drains and stagnant pools of water all over the poura area have caused bulk breeding of mosquitoes.

It may be mentioned that Kishoreganj Pourashava lacks proper drainage facilities.

Meanwhile, emergency measures should be taken for regular cleaning of the silted drains, ditches and derelict ponds owned by even private individuals.

Pry teachers deprived of govt grants

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Sept 17: The government grants for non government primary schools in Maulvi Bazar Sadar upazila could not be utilised due to negligence of Sadar Upazila Education Officer of Maulvi Bazar district.

According to sources, Director General of Primary Education allocated an amount of Taka 72,000 under compulsory Primary Education Scheme for six non-government schools as teachers benefit for six months from January to June this year. The allocated money was forwarded to Abdulpur Primary School, Bhravim Primary School, Nabinagar Primary School, Koromullahpur Primary School and Nimarai Primary School for 24 teachers.

It has been alleged that the Sadar Upazila Education Officer took no initiative to distribute the grants to the teachers as a result, the allocated money was shut back according to the government provisions.

NAP meet

Mr Pankaj Bhattacharya,

Secretary General of National Awami Party (NAP-Muzaffar) said that a political party will not be democratic if it harbours terrorism.

Mr Bhattacharya was addressing a special conference of NAP(M) leaders and workers of greater Sylhet district last week.

The conference was held at Sharada hall auditorium in Sylhet town. It was presided over by district NAP(M) President Mr M A Motin. NAP leaders in their speech said that this is an appropriate time for the country's left parties to form a left front in the country. They called for greater unity of left democratic forces to resolve the country's crisis.

Among others the conference was attended by Dr M A Malek, central presidium member, Maulana Ahmedur Rahman Azmeec and Principal Emdadur Rahman, central Secretary. Mr Radhika Goswami, Mr Abdul Hai Chowdhury and Maulana Sayed M A Hannan, member of central executive committee.

Ghost phone bills hit subscribers

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Sept 17: Over-billing and mismanagement are plaguing telecommunication in Sherpur district.

It is learnt that some operators at the Sherpur Telephone Exchange collect illegal tolls from telephone subscribers. They seldom attend trunk calls of the people.

Some telephone subscribers are not charged extra bills even if they talk for hours together on inter-district or overseas calls. People with urgent messages for their kith and kins residing in far-flung places have to wait for hours together to get a line, but any one who bribes operators gets connection immediately.

Most of the telephone lines of the local exchange remain dead for days.

Tk 5 cr misappropriated

A case of misappropriation of Taka five crore is being

suppressed by some concerned persons, it is alleged.

Government fund of Taka five crore has allegedly been misappropriated in collusion with district accounts office and upazila education officers. The amount was allegedly misappropriated by submitting fake bills in collaboration with officials of banks auditors and teachers from 1982-83 to '88-89. The case was detected by the district primary education officer in 1989.

The Anti-Corruption Department after investigation has sought permission from higher authorities to start a case in this regard.

It is learnt that official records of 1986-87, 85-86, 84-85, 83-84 and 82-83 are now missing as some elements are active to destroy all evidences.

Staff shortage hampers FP activities

JHENIDAH, Sept 17: Family planning activities in six upazilas of the district are being hampered by shortage of staff and services threatening fulfillment of annual target in the area, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the post of Upazila Family Planning (UFP) Officer at Harinakundu upazila, one Medical Officer (M.C.H.FP), three Medical Assistants (M.A), two Family Planning Assistants (FPA), 11 Family Planning Welfare Assistants (FWA) and 16 Family Planning Vaccinators (FPV) have been lying vacant for long.

Moreover, shortage of contraceptives particularly oral pills and injections are obstructing the programme, the sources added.

The target for the 1990-91 financial year had been set for bringing 2414 persons under sterilisation, 4796 under IUD or Copper-T, 53,240 persons under injection and 593 under other methods.

At least 6,78,765 files (chackras) of oral pills and 16,62,300 pieces of condoms were to be distributed.

Only 59.52 per cent of the target had been achieved, the sources claimed.

For the smooth functioning of the department and boosting the population control programme including mother and child care in the areas, the vacant posts are needed to be replenished soon, said the Deputy Director of Family Planning in the district.

Jute growers at stake

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Sept 17: Jute price has declined in the district due to delay in opening of purchasing centres both by the government and private sectors.

The present market price of jute is much below the production cost.

In utter helplessness the growers are selling their produce to the local middle men at nominal prices. On an average jute is now being sold at Taka 120 to Taka 150 per maund in the district. Some jute cultivators said that production cost of the jute this year has stood at Taka 380 per maund and the poor cultivators sustain a loss to Taka 230 per maund.

Some jute growers said due to low price, they are compelled to return home from the market with unsold jute.

All the government purchasing centres have not yet started purchasing jute in the district.

It has been reported that the brokers and 'farias' of the local market are propagating the idea that future of jute in Bangladesh was uncertain.

The prices of other essential commodities, on the other hand, are rising up causing untold suffering to the consumers.

The condition of buses plying on the roads is deplorable and often face engine troubles on the way. The number of passengers has increased with rapid increase of population but the authorities are reluctant to introduce more buses to cope with the situation.

The condition of bus terminals is also pitiable. Absence of waiting sheds at Akrampur bus stand is causing much inconveniences to the travellers who remain standing under the open sky even during summer and rainy season.

Local people urged the au-

mally high prices.

Besides, scanty rainfall and floods during the sowing season has been a cause of large scale damage to seedlings. Irrigation facilities were also to meagre to bring the targeted acreage.

It is apprehended that at the prices may register further decline.

It is expected that production may be higher this year compared to that of the previous year despite various snags and bottlenecks and even there may be glut for lack of proper marketing facilities.

Notes from Nandail

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, Sept 17: A seminar on contribution of Poet Nazrul in liberation struggle was held at Kashimnagar Upazila High School recently.

President, Bangladesh Journalists Association, Nandail branch Md. Mosharaf Hussain Akhand was present as chief guest and it was presided over by Abdur Rahim, and addressed among others by Ali Akbar, Firoz Alam, Abdur Rasheed and Maulana Nurul Islam.

10 die of diarrhoea

Ten persons died of diarrhoea and hundred others were attacked by the disease which has broken out in an epidemic form at Dhaubaura upazila. The worst affected villages are Baligwan, Maoushirhat, Noyonkahndi, Shiban-dokhila, Ranigan, Pautam, Dudhnodi and Goatola. It is learnt that the disease is also engulfing adjacent villages very rapidly. The victims are yet to get any treatment from upazila health department it is alleged.

Two children died in Nandail as virus fever has broken out in an epidemic form at Rajgati and Gangoli union of the upazila.

A ten-year-old girl at village Ponkorhati under Gangoli union died within 10 hours while another one a nine-year old boy of village Faridakanda of Rajgati union died after 12 hours of infection. Hundreds of people were learnt to be suffering from the disease at different villages of the unions.

Money lenders active

Money lending against grains and land has become rampant in different villages of the upazila, reports from remote areas reveal. Finding no other alternative poor cultivators are selling off their Aman crops in advance for Taka 125 to 130 a maund to maintain their livelihood and to procure their agricultural inputs.

The low price of jute has caused serious loss to the farmers as they have to sell their produce much below the production cost.

Taking advantage of the situation the money lenders are exploiting the poor farmers.

10 women violated in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Sept 17: Ten women were violated at different places of Kurigram district during the last three months, according to reports received here.

The rape-victims are: Sonabhan (21), Momtas Begam (9), Rasheda Begum (10) of Ulipur Upazila, Rabeya Khatun (18), Moriam (20), Anowara (15), Aleza (14), of Bhurungamari Upazila, Moziran Nesa (24), Sufia Khatun (28) of Nagoswari Upazila and Malcha (7) of Rajarhat Upazila.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Kurigram Zila Unit, arranged a press conference at Kurigram and president of the Parishad demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.



Railway Engineers and workers are engaged in repairing a flood damaged rail-bridge on Teesta-Kurigram section.

—Star photo