

Upazila roundup

GAIBANDHA
Low-lying areas submerged

From Our Correspondent
June 28: Continuous heavy downpour and onrush of water from upper catchment of the river Teesta submerged low-lying areas of Sunderganj and portion of Gaibandha Sadar upazilas. Standing crops including jute, Aus in the low lying areas went under water. The river Chagot fed by flood water is in spate. With the swelling of water in the Chagot basin erosion started its devastation at different locations of bridge road under Gaibandha Pourashava and Kholahat union. Precautionary measures taken by the local Water Development Board proved to be inadequate to halt the continuous erosion.

KISHOREGANJ
Tree plantation programme opens

From Our Correspondent
June 28: The tree plantation programme was inaugurated recently by Kazi Nasrullah Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj on the Achimta-Gopinathpur connecting road under Katiadi upazila of the district as chief guest. Haradhan Banik, Forest Preservation Officer of Mymensingh was also present as special guest. The function was presided over by Md. Serajuddin, Chairman, Achimta Union Parishad and addressed, by Mujibur Rahman, UNO, Katiadi, Md. Abdul Hai, Principal Joyanal Abedin, Safuddin, Ahmed, Mrinal Datta, Abul Khair Siddique, Dulal and Md. Kurban Ali. The elite and government officials were present on the occasion. The Deputy Commissioner called upon the people to plant trees in the follow land for maintaining ecological balance in the country. Two lakhs saplings will be planted in the district during this season.

CHANDPUR
Valuables worth Tk 80,000 stolen

June 28: Valuables and cash worth about Taka 80,000 were stolen from a house of an advocate in Matlab upazila bazar, police said here today, reports UNB. According to police Advocate Farid Ahmed Chowdhury along with his family members on June 21 went to his village home Ekhaspur under the same upazila to celebrate his Eid-ul-Azha. A gang of burglars on the night of June 23 entered his house and decamped with valuables including cash Tk. 5,000. A case has been registered in this connection with the local police station. Mentionable that an organised gang of burglars are active in the upazila for a long time in spite of repeated appeal no action has yet been taken in this regard.

JHENIDAH
Discussion on rights of child held

June 28: A discussion on "the rights of the child" was held recently at Jhenidah Club auditorium, reports BSS. Mirza Mohammad Faruque, Deputy Commissioner, Jhenidah was the chief guest while Mr Gunnar Lofberg, Resident Representative, Radda, Barmen, a non-governmental organisation and Shaiful Islam, Zonal Officer, UNICEF, Khulna were special guests at the function. The discussion was followed by exhibition of photographs on the problems of the children.

COMILLA
Prize-giving ceremony

June 28: The concluding day of EPI Week Comilla Pourashava organised a prize-giving ceremony for the volunteers recently, reports BSS. Deputy Commissioner Md. Hedayatullah Chowdhury was present as chief guest and Civil Surgeon, Comilla Dr Shamsul Hoque was the special guest. In all 120 volunteers received certificates and 10 volunteers from EPI Volunteers Forum were extolled for their voluntary services. Kazi Emadul Hoque, Co-ordinator of EPI Volunteers Forum received a trophy.

FARIDPUR
Arms recovered

June 28: Faridpur police recently recovered three arms and five rounds of ammunition from Madhukhali rail crossing area near Dhaka-Khulna Highway, 16 miles from Faridpur, reports BSS. According to police sources, when a highway police patrol team was patrolling in the area they challenged a man moving suspiciously with a bag in his hand. Being challenged the man fled leaving the bag on railway track. Police found one country-made revolver with five rounds of ammunition and two pipe guns in the bag. A dacoit was allegedly killed in an encounter with police and another was arrested with two arms from that area last month.

SATKHIRA
UZ Chairman sued

From Our Correspondent
June 28: All the Union Parishad chairmen of Debhata upazila have lodged separate cases against the Upazila Chairman in the court of Upazila Magistrate recently. It is alleged that Abdur Rahman the Chairman of the upazila was using the office as a party office since April 7. In protest the Chairmen of the five Union Parishads met and decided unanimously to keep the activities of the upazila suspended till the end of the illegal doings of the Upazila Chairman. Later on April 23 all UP chairmen apprised the Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and co-operatives of the incident.

MAGURA
Directive to complete water development project in time

June 28: Minister for agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Majedul Haq yesterday visited the ongoing Magura water development infrastructure which is part of the seven crore Taka greater Ganges-Kobadak project and reviewed its progress, reports BSS. The work of this part of the project was taken up in 1962. The work is expected to be completed by December this year. The main objective of this part of the project is to store rainy season water for lean period to irrigate about 10,000 acres of agricultural land in Magura. When completed it would be able to store 16,000 cubic feet of water for irrigation. Besides irrigating 10,000 acres of land in Magura, another 20,000 acres of agricultural land in Jhenidah would also be irrigated with the full completion of this part of the project. The minister also directed the concerned authorities to complete works within the scheduled time. He also urged the concerned engineers to make provision in the project for shrimp culture. Earlier Wednesday the Minister visited the Madhumati-Nabaganja project at Mohammadpur and directed the concerned officials to remove bottlenecks in the project.

BARISAL
Obituary

From Our Correspondent
June 28: Dr. Rnu Bhushan Baroi, Associate Professor of Orthopedics Department of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Barisal died recently following a massive cardiac arrest at his residence. He was 42. Dr. Baroi is survived by his two wives, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Prices of edibles up

PATUAKHALI, June 28
The prices of edibles including oil have increased abnormally in different markets of Patuakhali and Barguna districts for the last one week, reports UNB. Market sources said before the placement of the budget for fiscal 1991-92 in the Jatiya Sangsad, per kg soyabean oil was sold at Taka 33. But now it is being sold between Taka 40 and 42 affecting the common consumers adversely. Moreover, prices of powdered milk, baby food have also shot up in the markets. It is alleged that a section of dishonest traders have been creating artificial scarcity of essentials to earn maximum profit.



Jute — the golden fibre of the country is gradually losing world market for increased use of synthetic fibres. Growers are also becoming apathetic towards jute farming for not being able to fetch fair price. Photo shows women extracting fibre from the stalk at a village in Mymensingh. — Star photo by Shafuddin

Calamity fails to dampen their spirit
They look forward to start life anew

CHITTAGONG, June 28: Cyclone and tidal surge-stricken people of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are gradually recovering from the shock and loss they suffered during the devastating calamity on April 29 last. A BSS special correspondent who came across a large number of seriously-affected people of Chakaria, Moheshkhali and Kutubdia upazilas during the last Eid-ul-Azha holidays said with confidence that the natural calamity could not destroy their courage, they are looking forward to start their lives anew though they lost everything. They said that the spirit of sacrifice demonstrated during the Eid-ul-Azha is a lesson for all of them to forget the shock and the devastations wrought by the natural calamity and make all-out efforts to build their future once again. With government, non-government organisations and private relief bodies coming in aid of the affected people and the massive help and assistance extended by friendly countries, the morale of the people has got a boost. Muhammad Nurul Husseini of Magnama who, is yet to rebuild his devastated house said, "cyclone had snatched away everything from us but not our mental courage. We will build our future" he said adding "I received adequate quantities of relief materials including rice, cloths and dry food and some CI sheets. I am trying to procure some woods to build my house". Nasir Uddin of Ujantia of Chakaria Upazila who lost one son and one daughter said with tears in his eyes, "I could not sacrifice any animal this time though I used to sacrifice a cow on the holy occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. Allah will forgive me this time. I am planning to build my house". Muhammad Ali of

Gorokghata of Moheshkhali said he had no repentance for losing his house and other properties. He said, "it was an act of God and we shall build everything with help and support of government". He said that the most urgent need of his locality is reconstruction of the embankment that was washed away by tidal surge. He said, "without embankment we cannot till our land and cannot undertake shrimp culture." He was happy that he got adequate quantities of relief materials from the government. He said there is no shortage of food. But we need embankment, seeds and bullocks to enable us to resume our farming". According to Muhammad Ali, most of the affluent families which used to sacrifice animals on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha in the past, could not do so this time as they are yet to settle down many of the affected families have taken shelter in the hilly areas of Dulahazara, Eadgaon and Ramu, he said. Kabir Ahmad of Uloban of Dulahazara who has now taken shelter on hill top near Dulahazara has started rebuilding his house at Uloban with hope to return to his house soon. He said he needed bullocks, seeds and fertilizers to resume his farming. He has approached the nearest Krishi Bank branch for agricultural loan.

Common demand
The common demand of almost all the affected people of Chakaria, Moheshkhali and Kutubdia is the reconstruction of embankments which protect their farm lands, shrimp projects and salt beds from the onslaughts of tidal bores. Eighty per cent of the affected families need agricultural loan, seeds, fertilizers and bullocks for their quick rehabilitation. Ex-Chairman of Fashikhali Union Parishad M. Khalilur Rahman said, "farmers of Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, Banskhal, Chakaria and Sandwip need agricultural loan, seeds, fertilizers, bullock to resume their farming". The zonal relief and rehabilitation office here has so far allocated the following cash and CI sheets in the affected areas under house building programme: Chittagong City Corporation area-Taka 42 lakh, 3,000 bundles of CI sheets, Chittagong district-Taka two crore, 58 lakh and 19,000 bundles CI sheets, Noakhali-Taka 85 lakh, 8,000 bundles CI sheets, Cox's Bazar-Taka two crore, 20,000 bundles CI sheets, Feni-Taka 50 lakh, Lakhimpur-Taka 50 lakh each. Most of the cash and CI sheets have already been distributed or are under the process of distribution among the affected people, zonal office sources said.

Woes of train passengers

From Our Correspondent
lights, fans and other valuables, it is alleged. Gratifications are collected from the smugglers instead of sending them to the railway police station. It is also alleged. All the third class compartments both in local and express trains have been made second class compartments but the amenities are not enhanced. Waiting rooms in most of the stations have no sitting arrangements for upper class passengers. The waiting rooms in almost all the stations of this section are in a pitiable state and remain dirty. Most of the time these are found under lock and key. **No time table**
The trains running on these routes don't maintain any timetable and usually arrive and depart late often by two to five hours. As a result, the passengers particularly those who have to attend schools, colleges and offices are bewildered with after helplessness. It is alleged that the authorities have failed to take appropriate measure so far despite repeated representations by the members of the public. It is further alleged that some corrupt railway employees are allowing passengers to travel without ticket after taking illegal gratification from them and thus depriving the governments revenue. There is no permanent arrangement to clean the platform of the stations. Besides, in the absence of power supply in the compartments anti-social elements carry on their heinous activities. **Ticket counters open late**
It is also alleged that booking counters start functioning just a few minutes before the arrival of the train. As a result many passengers fail to purchase tickets in time causing loss to the railway authority. Besides, shortage of railway slippers and ballasts, nut-bolts, stones, partly damaged bridges and culverts, single railines and corrupt railway administration, old railtracks, stopping of passengers trains by the smugglers by pulling chains, overcrowding of passengers in the compartments etc. Are some of the reasons which cause the undue delay of trains. It is alleged that ticket checkers are too inadequate to cope with the rising passengers travelling in the shuttle trains.

Drainage system faulty in Madaripur

From Our Correspondent
MADARIPUR, June 28: The faulty drainage system in Madaripur town is causing great inconveniences to the dwellers. Most of the drains have developed cracks and holes. The drains remain filled with garbage and stagnant water. The tax payers alleged that water remains stagnant on both sides of the main roads. Most of the roads including Pura Bazar road, Karachi bidi roads, Head Post office road, Natun Bazar fish market and the low-lying areas remain under water after slight rainfall. Lack of adequate number of street lights in pourashava areas in the town is causing much inconveniences to the inhabitants after sun set. According to sources, the lightposts having no bulbs are creating problems to the pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic. Most of the time, the town plunges into darkness after sunset due to frequent failure of power and local shedding giving rise to anti-social activities.

Prices of essentials

The commodities falling under the new tax proposals in the budget by now recorded a modest uptrend in prices in the different markets of the district. Wholesellers of different commodities particularly essentials in the markets said that the prices of soyabean oil, mustard oil, pulses and baby food have slightly increased than before. Sources said due to short supply of some commodities prices have showed slight rise than before but it will not continue for long time. Only for condensed milk price has shown almost abnormal rise in the markets. Price of condensed milk rose about Taka 70 per carton of four dozens. A carton of condensed milk is now selling at Taka 1050 to Taka 1065. Palm oil is selling at Taka 40-43 per kg which is 3 to 5 Taka more per kg than pre-budget price. It is learnt that the import of palm oil has been suspended for the last six months although the demand is high. On the other hand, it is also learnt that the prices of powdered milk and ball pen did not increase in the wholesale markets but retailers have increased prices of these items.

Hearing of Shashanka murder case stayed

BRAHMANBARIA, June 28
Hearing of Shashanka Debnath murder case has been fixed for July 16 by the Additional District and sessions Judge Mohammad Nurul Wadud Yesterday, reports UNB. The original date of hearing scheduled on Wednesday was refixed for July 16 after the High Court Division of the Supreme Court stayed the hearing on an appeal filed by one of the accused Abdul Aziz.

Skin disease breaks out in C'nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 26: Gastro-intestinal and skin diseases have broken out in an alarming proportion in five upazilas of the district, reports UNB. According to doctors, a large number of patients from rural and urban areas have been pouring into their chambers everyday for treatment. Children are the worst victims. The outbreak of the diseases were attributed to vitamin deficiency, consumption of adulterated food and impure water. Lack of necessary medicines in the hospitals and rural health centres of the district has aggravated the situation, it is alleged. People urged the authorities supply essential medicines to check the spread of the disease. **Housewife killed for dowry**
A mother of five children of village Narsindu Daipokaria in Shibganj upazila here was allegedly killed by her father-in-law for non-payment of dowry. According to family sources, the victim Jahanara Begum (35), was beaten to death recently when she refused to bring dowry money from her poor parents. After the incident the killer father-in-law poured poison into her mouth to hush up the murder. The body was sent to hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered with Shibganj police in this connection.

Notes from Barisal

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, June 28: Erratic power supply to Barisal town and its adjoining areas has been causing untold sufferings to the people for a long time. Power failure has become a regular feature in the town and adjoining areas hampering not only the lives of the inhabitants but also the regular production of small-scale industries. Power failure is also creating panic among the shopkeepers and the buyers. Some times over loading of power disrupts transformers which caused irregular supply of power to the consumers in different places. It is learnt that unauthorised power connections exceeding the usual load from the electric lines have caused overloading and over burdening of the transformers. The overload of the power from a particular transformer also shortens its life. PDB officials are reportedly ignorant about these unauthorised connection. In these way PDB is being deprived of huge amount of revenue. The low voltage has also been attributed to such overloading. Experts say, delay in snapping these unauthorised connections will cost the PDB many other transformers in the district.

Mushroom growth of hotels

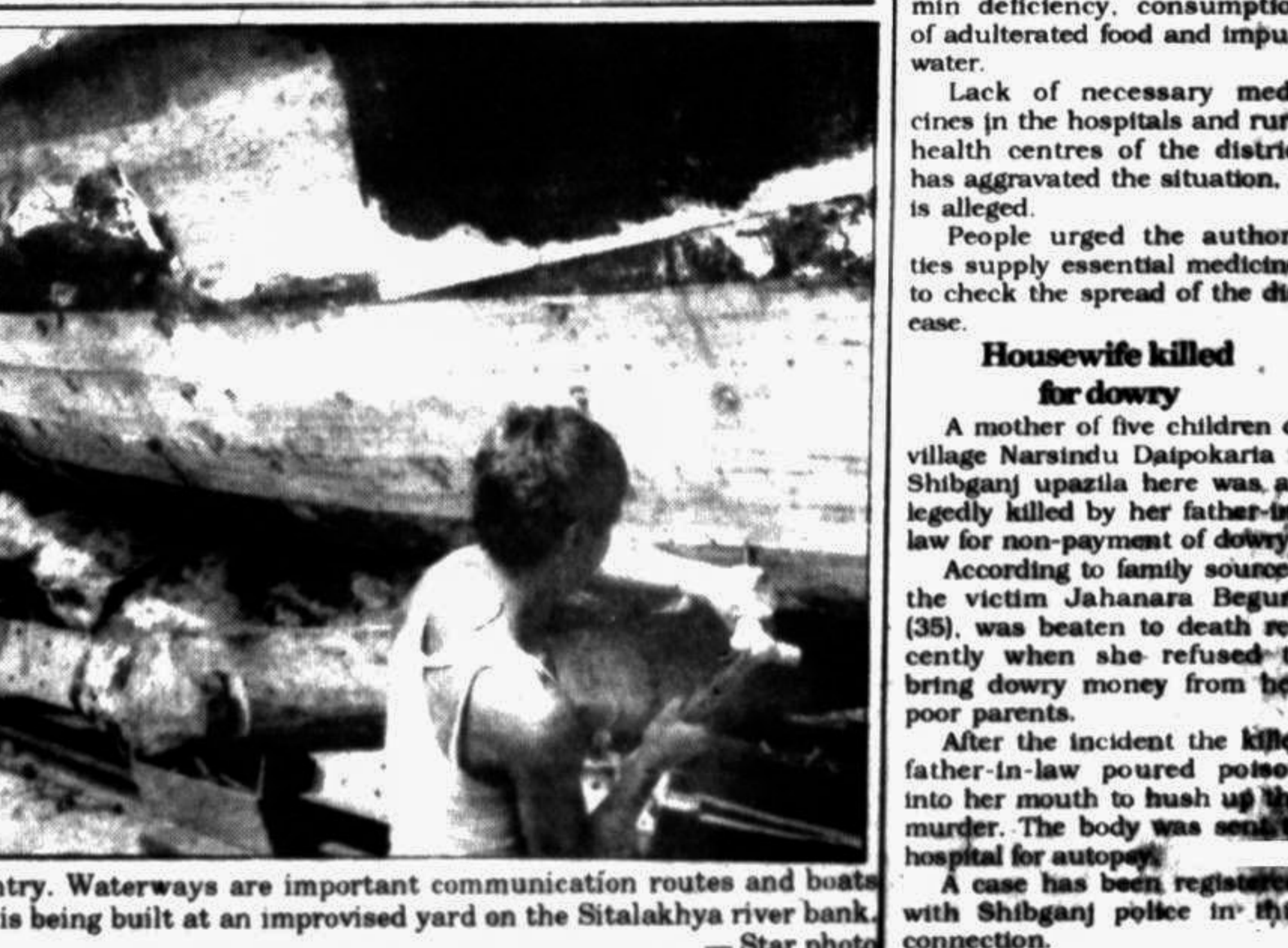
Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in the town and its adjoining areas are becoming a threat to the public health in general stale and adulterated foodstuffs are sold in these hotels and restaurants, it is alleged. The dishonest traders are devoid of public health hazards. They are almost engaged with such stale, dirty and adulterated foods are causing serious health hazards in these areas. It is to be mentioned here that the responsibility of examining the adulterated foods lies with the sanitary inspectors but he rarely visits the hotels and restaurants for checking the foods ready for sale to the public. As a result, the people of these areas are suffering from various diseases like dysentery, hepatitis and other peptic ailments. The attention of the concerned authorities is drawn to take immediate steps to eradicate this social menace.

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, June 28: Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated at Kishoreganj with due solemnity and religious fervour. A day-long programme began with hoisting of the National Flag atop all public and private buildings. Improved diets and sweets were served among 670 male and female prisoners in the district jail and also to the inmates of Sadar Hospital and CARE protection centre on this holy occasion. The main Eid congregation was held at the historic Sholakia Eidgah Maidan. Special prayers were offered at all the congregations for the peace and prosperity of the country and solidarity of the Muslim world as a whole. Our Sherpur correspondent writes: Holy Eid-ul-Azha, one of the greatest Muslim religious festivals was celebrated in a befitting manner all over the district on Monday last. Devotees converged at Sholakia Maidan and mosque to say their prayers. Special prayers were held for the peace and prosperity of the nation.

Cattle lifters active in Sherpur

SHERPUR, June 28: Cattle lifting is rampant in and around the bordering villages of Jhenaidah and Nalitabari upazilas of the district affecting cultivation adversely. Jhenaidah upazila chairman told UNB that at least 35 cattle-heads were lifted in the last week from his upazila. He alleged that the miscreants in collaboration with Indian BSF are engaged in lifting cattle-heads at regular intervals. Villagers said the miscreants lifted a number of cows from the village of Oumra of the upazila on Eid day while they were busy with the festival. The villagers of bordering areas of Haldigram, Fakrabad and Smaachura could not attend the Eid jamaat as they were busy guarding their cattle-heads, it is learnt.



Bangladesh the riverine country. Waterways are important communication routes and boats are essential. Here a big boat is being built at an improvised yard on the Sitalakha river bank. — Star photo