

**District roundup**

**RAJBARI**

**World Population Day observed**

From Our Correspondent  
July 24: World Population Day was observed all over the district with much enthusiasm. In this connection, district Family Planning Department, different social organisations and non-government organisations chalked out programmes at union, thana and district level. A colorful rally of men, women and children carrying festoons and playcards paraded the main thoroughfare of the town. A discussion meeting was held here at local Railway Hall in observance of the day. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Rajbari, the meeting was addressed among others by Deputy Director of Family Planning Moniruzzaman, Anwar Hossain Civil Surgeon of Rajbari and Prof Yeahia. The meeting was followed by distribution of prizes among some family planning workers and ideal couples.

**FARIDPUR**

**4 killed, 30 hurt in road mishap**

From Our Correspondent  
July 24: Four persons were killed and 30 injured in a road accident in the district recently. It is gathered that a bus (Dhaka-Cha-168) turned turtle and fell into a ditch while it was over-taking another bus near Jumudi on Faridpur-Nagarkanda road. Jafour (22), Miran (19), Dabir (22) and Toebur Rahman (25) died on the spot. Four injured persons were admitted to Faridpur Sadar Hospital and 11 others were admitted in Nagarkanda hospital. A case was registered with Nagarkanda police in this regard and police seized the bus. The driver managed to escape from the spot.

**RAJSHAHI**

**800 tubewells lying inoperative**

From Our Correspondent  
July 24: About 800 tubewells have been lying inoperative for the last few months causing acute scarcity of pure drinking water in nine thanas of the district. These are Godagari, Poba, Bagha, Charchat, Puthia, Durapur, Mohanpur and Tanore. Villagers complained that after a few months of installation, most of the tubewells having plastic pipes went out of order. According to sources, mechanical trouble, lack of proper maintenance and pilferage of spare parts were the main reasons for disorder. Meanwhile, gastro-intestinal diseases have broken out in an alarming proportion in these thanas as villagers have been forced to drink water from ponds and canals.

**SYLHET**

**Miscreants loot Tk 1.35 lakh**

From Our Correspondent  
July 24: A gang of armed miscreants looted a cash amount of Taka 1.35 lakh from two passersby at village Moulatur under Gobindaganj union of Chhatak thana leaving behind the victims injured seriously. Both of them had been admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital. According to the reports, at about 8:45 pm the manager of a private farm of Gobindaganj bazar along with a friend was on his way to the owners house with said amount. When they reached at a place near village Moulatur, the miscreants numbering about 4 blocked their way and snatched away the amount, leaving behind them injured. A case had been registered with the police in this connection. But no action had yet been reported.

**TANGAIL**

**Cricket coaching ends**

July 24: A month long cricket coaching concluded on Thursday in Tangail Stadium, reports BSS. The coaching was sponsored by Bangladesh Cricket Control Board and was managed by Tangail District Sports Association. Sixty-six participants were awarded certificates on their successful completion of the coaching.

**KISHOREGANJ**

**Woes of telephone subscribers**

From Our Correspondent  
July 24: The telephone subscribers of Kishoreganj district town have been suffering for a long time. They have to undergo much trouble to contact Dhaka and other distant places over telephone, it is learnt. Kishoreganj being a district headquarters, needs good telephone link with the capital city and other places of the country. In spite of repeated attempt to contact Dhaka, telephone subscribers fail to get it. Local journalists face troubles in sending important news to different national dailies and news agencies. It is alleged that Dhaka-Kishoreganj telephone line remain well but the operators of Dhaka telephone exchange does not respond to the Kishoreganj telephone exchange call in time. They telephone subscribers of Kishoreganj urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures for good service of Kishoreganj Dhaka telephone line and trunkcalls.

**CHUADANGA**

**Terrorism activities rampant**

From Our Correspondent  
July 24: Terrorism activities are on the increase now throughout Chuadanga district. A strong group of terrorists have recently burst a number of bombs in village Baliakandi under Padmabila union parishad of Chuadanga Sadar thana which has created panic among the villagers. They also assaulted two young boys of the said village. The Chairman of Padmabila union parishad under Chuadanga Sadar thana said that his life had been endangered due to the activities of the terrorists in the area. A high powered bomb was blast near his village home at Baliakandi recently. However, the situation could not be aggravated due to the timely interference of Chuadanga thana police.

**CHANDPUR**

**Two lakh acres of land under aman farming**

From Our Correspondent  
July 24: Agriculture department has undertaken a comprehensive programme to bring about two lakh acres of land under aman cultivation in the district during the current season. According to official sources, one lakh acres of land will be brought under High Yielding Variety and the rest will be brought under other local variety. Besides, about one lakh acres of land will be brought under aman cultivation in "Chandpur Irrigation Project" and "Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project". It is expected that about two lakh fifty thousand metric tons of aman paddy will be produced during the current season.

**AGRI-VARSITY**

**Training course on seed concludes**

July 24: The concluding session of a two-day long training programme on "Seed health and production, collection and storage of healthy seeds" was held at the Plant Pathology Museum of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently, says a Press release. Arranged under the joint auspices of the Seed Pathology Laboratory, the department of Plant Pathology and the Extension Centre of BAU, the session was presided over by Prof Dr G A Fakir of the department of Plant Pathology and it was attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture Prof Dr M Abdul Hoq as the chief guest and the Additional Director of Agriculture Directorate Fazlul Haque as the special guest. Others who spoke on the occasion included Dr A R Khan, Dr I Hossain, Foyezuddin Ahmed and Musiehuddin. In his address, the chief guest stated that the seed health was an important component for enhancing the growth of crop production. The chief guest distributed certificates among the trainees.



RANGPUR: The low-lying areas of the district town go under water after rainfall due to absence of proper drainage system. — Star photo

**Chandpur Town Protection Scheme**

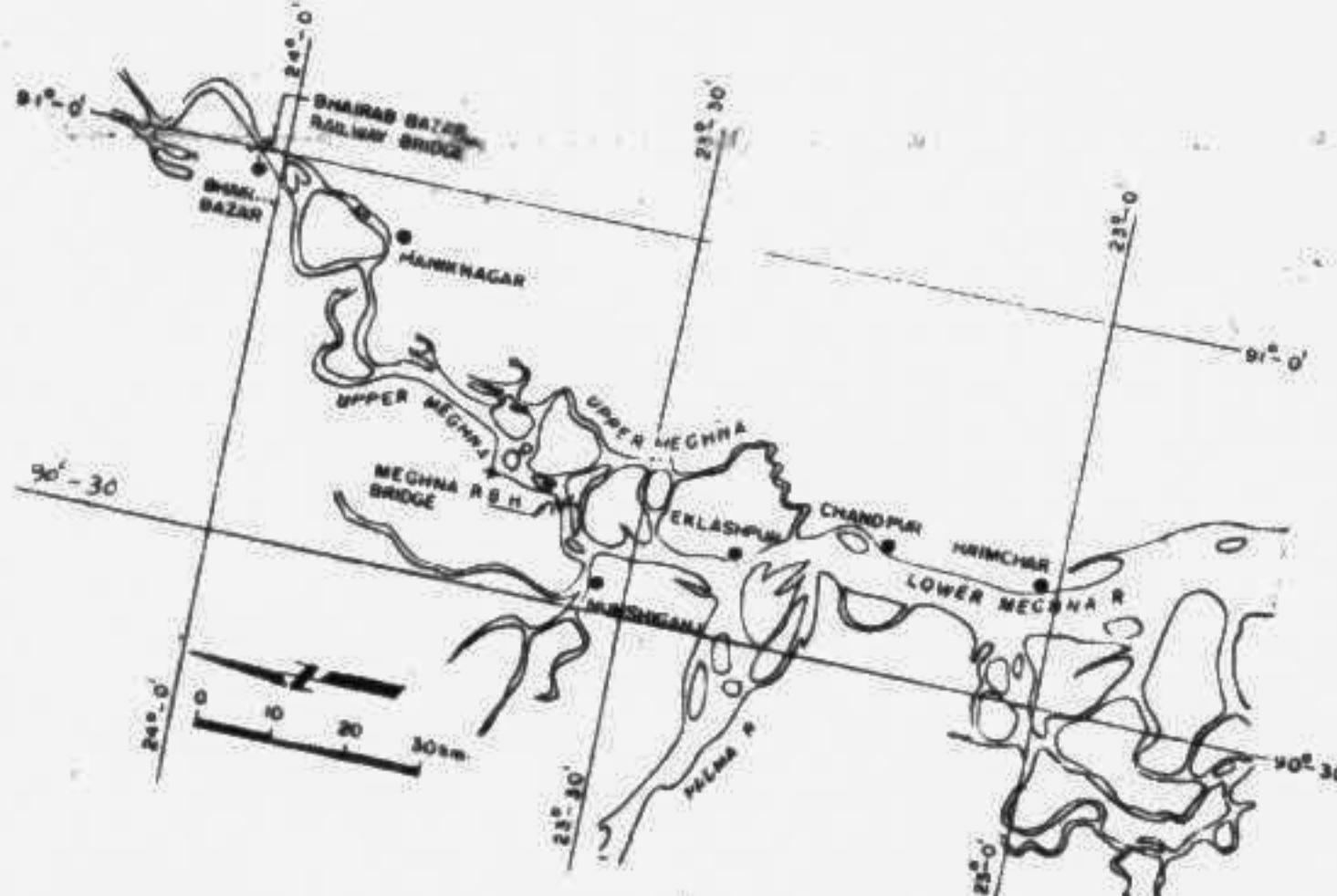
**Work on Tk 300cr permanent plan begins January next**

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, July 24: The government has taken up a comprehensive and permanent scheme for the protection of Chandpur town and other adjoining areas from the devastating erosion of the mighty river Meghna. To check the erosion, the government constituted an international hydrological experts in detail the causes of the erosion of the river Meghna from Bhairab Bazar to Haimchar, Chandpur. The international committee, Haskin surveyed the causes of the erosion of Meghna during the last one year. The committee submitted the report with the recommendations in November 1991 to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the board has already reviewed the scheme.

The survey was conducted under the supervision of Bangladesh Water Development Board in consultation with the World Bank at a cost of Taka 10 crore. It is reported that the World Bank primarily expected the report with some modifications. A earlier report suggested to protect only the Chandpur Natun Bazar area from the Jamuna Ghat to Iwta Terminal. Later on the Puran Bazar area was also included in the scheme. The Meghna survey report estimated the cost of the project at about Taka 300 crore. The work is scheduled to begin in January 1993 and expected to be complete by the end of 1995.

An international tender will be called for this purpose. Meghna survey committee submitted its report in seven large volumes to BWDB and it suggested the completion of the work in two phases. **Interim arrangement in progress** To check the erosion in the current season, WDB has undertaken interim arrangements at a cost of Taka 1.75 crore. About 4.84 lakh cubic feet boulders will be procured for the purpose. Out of the total, some will be thrown in the eroded area and the rest will be kept reserve to meet the emergency. The work of the



Meghna survey for Chandpur town protection from Bhairab bazar to Chandpur (Haimchar).

two rivers, about 1.5 lakh cubic metre per second are passing through Chandpur. The government has so far spend about Taka 23 crore in different occasions to check the erosion. But no permanent scheme was taken. Due to lack of permanent scheme, the erosion continued alarmingly. During the last 22 years, the erosion engulfed the property like land, industries, business firms, houses worth Taka 500 crore. The people of the town in cooperation with the local chamber of commerce and industries formed a committee to ventilate the problems and to protect Chandpur town permanently. Chandpur Railway Station, steamer ghat, fish market, Iwta terminal, important commercial centre, Puran Bazar are under the threat of

the river erosion. **Protection plan practical** According to national and international experts, Meghna survey report is unique and if the scheme is properly implemented, Chandpur town will permanently be protected from the erosion. This type of scheme will be first in Bangladesh sponsored by BWDB. According to Meghna survey report, an eight-mile long concrete rock made embank-

150 crore Chandpur Irrigation Project from the erosion of the mighty river of Meghna. It can be mentioned here that the two irrigation projects are the biggest in Bangladesh under the WDB. About 200 crore taka Irri-boro paddy are produced every year in these two projects. After the implementation of the Meghna scheme, it will be extended up to Munshiganj, Bhairab Bazar and other areas of Bangladesh.

**Notes from Patuakhali**

PATUAKHALI, July 24: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has made a provision to grant loan to its employees and their dependents against their terms and Deposit Pension Scheme, reports UNB. Officials said considering the repeated demand of the employees, bank authorities decided to grant loan as per its rules, terms and conditions, effective from the current month.

Board of Directors of the Bank already approved the new provision in a recent meeting, the sources said.

**Anti-social activities rampant**

Increasing anti-social activities in Khepupara town of the district have been causing great concern among the dwellers. Local leaders alleged that gambling, drug abuse, free movement of gay girls are the common features in the town. Ganjas are being sold in different places of the town where youths are the main customers. It is also alleged that some dishonest businessmen in collaboration with the Video Club Owners screen blue films almost in every night on commercial basis giving rise to anti-social activities. Dwellers have urged the authorities to take necessary steps to stop anti-social activities immediately.

**Construction work in progress**

Construction work is in progress on nine madrasas in four districts of Khulna division. Sources said three madrasas each will be constructed in Barisal and Patuakhali districts, two in Pirojpur and one in Jhalakathi. Facilities Department of the Education Ministry is implementing the scheme at a cost of Taka 1.15 crore. With the implementation of the project greater number of students will be able to get madrasa education in the division, it is learnt from official sources.

**Two cow lifters nabbed**

Police have arrested an alleged cow lifter caught by the public from Lebukhali ferry ghat in the district. Police said Abdul Mannan of Atkhali village lifted two cows worth about Taka 12000 from Anukul Chandra's cow-shed in Hogolbunia village of Galachipa thana and was about to escape when he was caught by the villagers. A case has been filed with the Dumki thana police.

**Four housewives, man commit suicide**

SATKHIRA, July 24: Three housewives allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in different areas of the district on July 21, police said, reports UNB. The deceased were identified as Purnima (20), wife of Basudev in Kukrail, Nazma wife of Abdul Jalil in Dhulihar and Moslema (18) wife of Nur Islam in Ghona of Sadar thana. Family problems were the reasons behind the tragedy, police said. Three cases of unnatural deaths were filed with the Satkhira police. In another incident: A youth allegedly committed suicide in the district when his father refused to give money to buy a motor bike for him. The victim Yusuf Ali (20) son of Ishaque of village Balli in Sadar thana killed himself by taking insecticide at his residence recently. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been lodged with the local police. Report from Feni says: A young housewife of village Charipur in Sadar thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, police said. According to family sources, Ratna Akhter, mother of one child and wife of Mahubur Rahman, was being tortured by her husband for dowry since their marriage. On the fateful day on July 11 when she failed to bring the dowry money from her poor father her husband became furious and started beating her mercilessly. Escaping from the wrath of her husband she allegedly took poison, villagers said. A case has been filed with the police and the greedy husband remained absconding since the incident. UNB report from Jhenidah adds: A young man of Matnaza village in Shailakupa thana allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides three days after getting married, police said. Nasir (24), son of Nekbar Ali was married to Kohinoor Begum (16), daughter of Golam Rahman against his will.

**Crimes on increase in southern districts**

From Our Correspondent  
BARISAL, July 24: Crimes have been increasing in seven southern districts. Hijacking, theft, robbery, toll collection and killing have become the regular features in these districts. According to law-enforcing agencies, 114 hijacking and 120 theft have been committed. These occurrences were committed during last six months in seven districts. Snatchers snatched away wealth of Taka six lakh including gold ornaments. During January to June last, according to the concerned authority, district-wise snatching and thefts are: Barisal-snatching 22 and theft 14, Jhalakathi-snatching 20 and theft 12, Bhola-snatching 14 and theft 12, Pirojpur-snatching 16 and theft 12, Patuakhali-snatching 22 and theft 11, Bogura-snatching 9 and theft 26 and in Bagerhat-11 snatchings were committed. One Alamgir Matabbar (30) reportedly a leader of inter-district dacoity group was arrested by Madaripur thana police from Bajitpur village of the Sadar thana recently. Acting on a tip, police arrested Alamgir from Bajitpur and also recovered a revolver with four rounds of ammunition from his possession. Mentionable, he was also arrested with a cutrifle in connection with a dacoity case in 1983. A case has been lodged with the Kotwali Police Station in this regard.

**Soil fertility on decline**

From Our Correspondent  
SATKHIRA, July 24: Soil fertility all over the southern part of the country has been decreasing alarmingly. According to BADC sources, soil fertility in the southern area has been diminished by 20 to 25 per cent during the last 10 years. As a result, the production of various crops do not achieve. It is learnt that adverse affect of Farakka, change of weather, use of excessive fertilizers, pesticides and unplanned cultivation are the main reason behind it. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides were being used repeatedly in cultivating paddy, jute, wheat, potatoes, vegetables and other crops. Allover the southern districts, Urea, Phosphate, and Potash are the common chemical fertilizers while Sulphur and Zinc fertilizers are also being used in most of the areas. The ratio and combination of different fertilizers are not decided as per requirement of the land. At the same time, strong pesticides are being repeatedly applied to contain pest attack on crops while organic manures are being seldom used. The capacity of water sustaining of the soil is being gradually decreased for lack of sufficient organic elements. Long lasting drought and floods are also responsible in gradual decrease of soil fertility while repeated cultivation of the same land is another factor behind the fertility decrease. It is feared that alarming decrease in soil fertility is posing adverse effect on production of crops.

**Blue film shows unabated in Barguna**

BARGUNA, July 24: Blue films are being exhibited almost freely by video shop owners in different parts of the district, reports UNB. A section of dishonest video owners have arranged mobile video units and move from place to place showing obscene films on commercial basis, informed sources said. Social workers said, the business has been spreading far and wide resulting in rapid deterioration of the moral standard of the people, particularly the teen agers. Anti-social activities have also been increasing, they said. Local leaders have called for urgent measures to check this heinous business.

**Ten to suffer lifeterm for killing one**

From Our Correspondent  
SYLHET, July 24: The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sylhet Md Anwarul Haque recently sentenced ten persons to suffer rigorous imprisonment life term for killing one and fined Taka five thousand each in default to suffer imprisonment for one year more. The court also sentenced them all to suffer rigorous imprisonment for two years more. Both the sentences would go simultaneously, the court ordered. The prosecution case in brief is that, one Abdul Haque of village Dakshin Charia under Beanibazar thana was killed in the hands of some armed people at about 6 am on April 2 of 1990, at the Godara ghat of Naya Dobag Bazar. Khalilur Rahman, cousin of the victim registered a case with the police. After holding an investigation, the police submitted chargesheet against ten persons. The accused persons are Nazrul Islam, Jakal, Chand Ali, Fakhur, Azir, Doula Moyna (1), Alam, Shahabuddin and Moyna (2). The court after examining all the records passed the aforesaid judgement. Another report adds: A minor boy of only four years was drowned in a pond of their house. The incident took place at village Bilbari under Barohal union of Jaktiganj thana recently. According to the reports, the victim Imaduddin, son of one Md Rafique Uddin went to have his bath with his mother.



SYLHET: A culvert, newly constructed few days back on Chalibandar-Chhararpar Road of the town recently damaged for faulty construction. — Star photo