

District roundup

FARIDPUR

One killed, 25 hurt in road mishap

June 15: One person was killed and twentyfive others were injured, ten of them seriously when a Khulna bound passenger coach from Faridpur met an accident on Saturday at Gangabardi, five miles from here, reports BSS.

According to Faridpur General Hospital source the coach which was running at high speed skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch. One staff of the coach died on the spot and twentyfive others received injury.

Fifteen were released from the hospital after first aid and ten were admitted. The condition of three were stated to be critical.

A case was registered with Kotwali police in this connection.

JHENAI DAH

Plumbers die mysteriously

June 15: Two plumbers died mysteriously when they were fixing a safety tank of a sanitary latrine here in the town recently, reports UNB.

The plumbers, Monabbar and Reazaul fell ill after entering into a newly constructed safety tank at Arappur and later died at the Jhenaidah Sadar hospital, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The incident occurred when Monabbar went down the tank for repairing purpose but fell ill and did not return back. Reazaul, the other plumber followed Monabbar to rescue him but met the same tragedy.

Firebrigade later rescued them and admitted to the hospital where they died soon after.

The mysterious deaths have caused panic in the area.

JAMALPUR

One drowned, two electrocuted

June 15: Two persons were electrocuted and one minor girl was drowned in Jamalpur and Sherpur district recently, reports BSS.

One, Shaftuddin Ahmad Fatik (52) of Shimla Bazar under Sharishabari Thana while climbing the roof of his house to pluck mango came in touch with overhead electric line and was electrocuted on Wednesday.

In Sherpur district one, Abdullah Amin, a fourth year student of Sherpur College was electrocuted while repairing an electric line of his house in municipal area.

One, Aleya Ferdousi (3) was drowned in a pond in the town recently.

Separate cases of unnatural deaths were registered in these connections.

DINAJPUR

Kala Azar takes serious turn

June 15: The disease, Kalaazar, has taken a serious turn in Mohespur village of Sadar thana recently, attacking 16 people including seven children, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Muni (23), Marjina (25), Serajul (6), Mofassal (4), Ashraf (9), Bodhin Hasda (10), Montaj Ali (50), Krisna Hasda (25), Shudir (50), Bimal (35), Shuku (35), Dilip Kumar (29), Arjina (25), Shanti (7), Ayanul (10), and Rahim Miah (15). They were admitted to Dinajpur Sadar Hospital.

A medical team was sent to the affected areas to combat the menace, thana medical officer said.

Local doctors attributed the spread of the disease to bite of flies living in cow sheds. They advised local people not to live at houses, attached to cow sheds.

MAGURA

Housewife commits suicide

June 15: A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Ghashliara village in Sreepur thana last week, reports UNB.

The victim identified as Rousanara Begum (45), wife of Khalibur Rahman, committed suicide by drinking poison, family sources said.

The causes behind her death could not be ascertained immediately. The neighbours, however, said Rousanara was leading an unhappy conjugal life for a long.

The victim, mother of eight children, also tried several times earlier to commit suicide, local people said.

A case was filed with Sreepur police in this connection.

MEHERPUR

Workshop on social afforestation concludes

June 15: A five-day long workshop organised by Meherpur district Forest Extension Department on social afforestation programme concluded at village Madnavanga recently, reports BSS.

A total of twentyfive persons including students and farmers participated in the workshop. They were imparted training on tree plantation in the rural areas.

The participants were given certificates by the officer-in-charge of the Meherpur Forest Extension Centre.

RAJSHAHI

BR to resume ferry services in westzone

June 15: Bangladesh Railway westzone will again start running passenger ferry services between Straiganj ghat and Jagannathganj ghat from June 16 to connect Padma inter-city train only, reports BSS.

Until further notice 5 up and 6 down Rajshahi Express which run between Chapainawabganj and Chittagong will not have ferry connection. 5 up and 6 down will remain as zonal trains.

BARISAL

Two schemes undertaken

June 15: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has been implementing two major projects at a cost of Taka 1,13,23,000 in government Brojomohun University College of Barisal during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects to be implemented are: construction of a science building and a commerce building.

Of the total Taka 82,52,000 has been sanctioned for science building and Taka 30,71,000 for commerce building.

Work on these projects is expected to be completed within December next, source added.

SHERPUR

Storm kills one, injures 15 others

June 15: One old woman was killed and 15 others were injured in a norwester which lashed different areas of Sherpur district recently, reports BSS.

According to an unofficial estimate, at least 300 thatched houses and a large number of trees were uprooted by the hail storm accompanied by heavy shower.

One, Haritan Bewa (68) of Naitabari thana was killed in a house-collapse during the storm. Bayat Bada Primary School was blown away by the norwester.

KUSHITIA

One shot dead

June 15: One Mohiuddin (35) of village Zoadah under Harinakundu Thana of Jhenidah district was allegedly shot dead by unknown assailants at village Monohardha under Kushtia Sadar thana on Saturday, reports BSS.

Kushtia police sent the body to general hospital for post-mortem.

A case has been registered in this connection but none was arrested.

NETROKONA

Case filed against one for mishandling govt money

June 15: District Anticorruption Bureau has filed a case with Netrokona Kotwali Police Station against Abu Siddique Ahmed, former chairman of Kallarara Gabragachi union parishad under Netrokona Sadar thana for allegedly misappropriating government money amounting to Taka 20,482, reports BSS.

Netrokona district anticorruption office sources said the former UP chairman was also the chairman of the project committee of the then Netrokona sadar upazila parishad (abolished) during 1985-86 financial year for the construction of four irrigation pipe culverts at a cost of Taka 38,352 at Baroari Sidi area under the union. The former chairman had misappropriated Taka 20,482 out of the total Taka 38,352 without executing the project properly, the sources said.



HAVE NO FEAR: These children are enjoying diving in the river Jamuna near Kalihati thana of Tangail district. — Star photo

Bright prospect for large scale soyabean cultivation

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 15: Prospect of cultivating soyabean in the country looks brighter. Foreign exchange worth crores of taka can be saved annually by its cultivation at cheaper cost.

Soya-meat, soya-milk, curd dal and husk can be produced out of it besides oil, told an agronomist.

It is learnt, one, Moshir Rahman of village Mirpur of Bagherpara thana in the district has set record in cultivating Sohag-Gini-1 variety of soyabean and extracting oil by crushing it in oil mill in cooperation with Agriculture Extension Department.

Soyabean seeds were imported in this country in 1941. It took a long time to complete its experiment for cultivation in the climate of such region as Bangladesh. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Bangladesh Agriculture University, Bangladesh Atomic Research Institute and Bangladesh Science Research Parishad went on examining feasibility of cultivating soy-

abean crop in the country.

All these institutions started its cultivation at test level in miniature form since 1975. Since then the cultivation is going on in small scale in different parts of the country.

Thana Agriculture Officer, Bagherpur, Golam Mortuza, while talking to this correspondent, claimed that his attempt of soyabean cultivation in the area was quite successful. Extraction of oil from it was possible, he added. In fact, it is a crop from which both oil and dal can be obtained simultaneously, he told.

According to a source, soyabean are nutritious food containing 40 to 45 per cent of meat and fish elements. It also contains 240 mg calcium, 690 mg phosphorus and sufficient quantity of vitamin-B per 100 mg soyabean. In no other food matter so much of nutrition was available, the source said.

It is learnt, its production per acre exceeds 20 maunds requiring no fertilizer, nor enough time. It is a crop which grows within a short time and can be

harvested within a period of two months. It is cultivable on the same land after sowing Aus.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, Taka one thousand five hundred is required for cultivation of this crop on one acre of land yielding a total of 20 maunds of soyabeans on average. Sale proceeds of total production at the rate of Taka six hundred per maund, amounts to a total of Taka twelve thousand. Production of oil alone gives higher prices.

It is learnt that soyabean are profitable for cultivation and no less attractive than any item of cash crops.

Despite all the plus points, the government fails to convince farmers to give knowledge on bias among the farmers, is cultivating soyabeans.

If a massive programme is taken up for cultivation of the crop throughout the country in large scale, not only import of edible oil but also fodder of poultry will be stopped rendering the national economy to be straightened to a great extent.

Notes from Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, June 15: Acute shortage of bullock prevailing in 13 upazilas of the district of Dinajpur, poses threat to cultivation.

According to the sources, about 60 to 70 per cent farmers do not have bullocks of their own to till their land. Consequently 25 to 30 per cent of land in the district remain uncultivated causing shortfall in crop production.

Most of the farmers are working on share basis as they cannot afford to purchase bullocks due to sharp rise in prices. The shortage is mainly due to loss of a large number of cattleheads during the flood in the recent years.

Medicines scarce

The District Modernised Sadar Hospital lacks in proper medical facilities. Everyday a large number of patients return home disappointed for want of beds and medicines. Many emergency patients are found lying on the floor. Moreover shortage of equipment, apparatus, specialists and surgical consultants are hampering treatment seriously.

There is no emergency power supply unit in the hospital. Very often surgeons have to use torch light in the operation theatre during power failure. Shortage of life saving drugs has become a common feature. Even paracetamol and red mixture are not available in the hospital.

Palli Biddut Scheme

To facilitate agriculture, irrigation and industrialization in Thakurgaon, the Palli Biddut Samity has taken a scheme to electrify 380 villages costing Taka 30 crore, it is learnt.

Apart from the scheme, there is also a plan to make electric connection to 22 deep tubewells and 564 domestic connection in Atwari upazila under Panchagarh district and Balidangi upazila under Thakurgaon district.

According to a source of customs departments, excise and VAT from different areas of Jhenidah and Chuadanga districts are as follows: Taka four crore 63 lakh three thousand 31 from sugar, Taka five lakh 77 thousand seven hundred 24 from molasses, Taka one lakh 34 thousand one hundred 36 from sugarcane factories, Taka eight lakh 92 thousand five hundred 59 from medicines, Taka eight lakh 76 thousand from cinema halls, Taka 10 lakh 45 thousand four hundred 47 from curpus cotton, Taka 61 thousand 53 from curpus clothing.

In addition to this a good number of revenue was collected from bidi, decorators, steel products, courier services, jewellery and hotel and restaurants, the source disclosed.

Taxes realised

During the period of seven months, ended on January 31, the Customs and Excise Department at Thakurgaon has realised taxes from cinema halls, bookellers, brick fields and electronics shops under Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts amounting to Taka 2 crore 20 lakh, it is learnt.

According to Thakurgaon customs circle office Taka 8 lakh from 21 cinema halls, 2 crore 10 lakh from sugar business sector, 70 thousand from bricks field, 13 thousand from 10 VDO shops and over Taka 60 thousand from auction sale of smuggling goods and cattle recovered by the BDR personnel of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts. A total of Taka 28 lakh 60 thousand 800 were collected during the fiscal year 1990-91.

Chuadanga Shibir leader arrested for attack on dist Ameer

CHUADANGA, June 15: A local leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, was arrested for his alleged attack on Jamaat's district Ameer on Sunday last, police sources said here, reports UNB.

Masum, a leader of Shibir of Chuadanga district unit attacked the district Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Anwar Hossain following an inter-party conflict and took an attempt to damage his motor-cycle.

Later, Masum was arrested but details of the incident could not be gathered immediately.

Drug addicts rising in Faridpur Action against drug dealers urgent

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 15: The number of drug addicts is seen to be increasing in the district. It is noted the number of these addicts doubled since early last year.

Most of these addicts include youths who happen to drop out of college, rickshawpullers and a section of school and college teachers.

It is alleged by local people that drugs of different types are available at few places namely at Khabaspur, Allpur, New Market and Station Road.

Police reportedly keep knowledge of these places where illegal drugs are sold. However, police seem to take no such notice of such activities, said one social worker who asked not to be named.

There are few illegal liquor shops in Faridpur sadar thana where people of different ages gather to drink. A number of people allege that those who drink liquor sometimes engage themselves in raping and looting valuables from nearby shops.

Further, in addition to those places where drugs are sold there are few marked places where groups of youths gather, mostly during dusk hours, to enjoy themselves in anti-social activities. These places are, Badarpur, Jhiltuli, Dhuldy Gate, Jasimuddin Road and Kashihatti.

Those who are annoyed and are still tolerating such menace have urged the local law enforcing agents to take proper action.

Target of IRRI, boro production not achieved

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, June 15: The target of IRRI-Boro production in Chandpur district could not be achieved due to a lot of problems. These include abnormal and high prices of different agricultural inputs, drought, shortage of bullocks, high prices of fuel, faulty system of irrigation, shortage of high yielding varieties of seed etc.

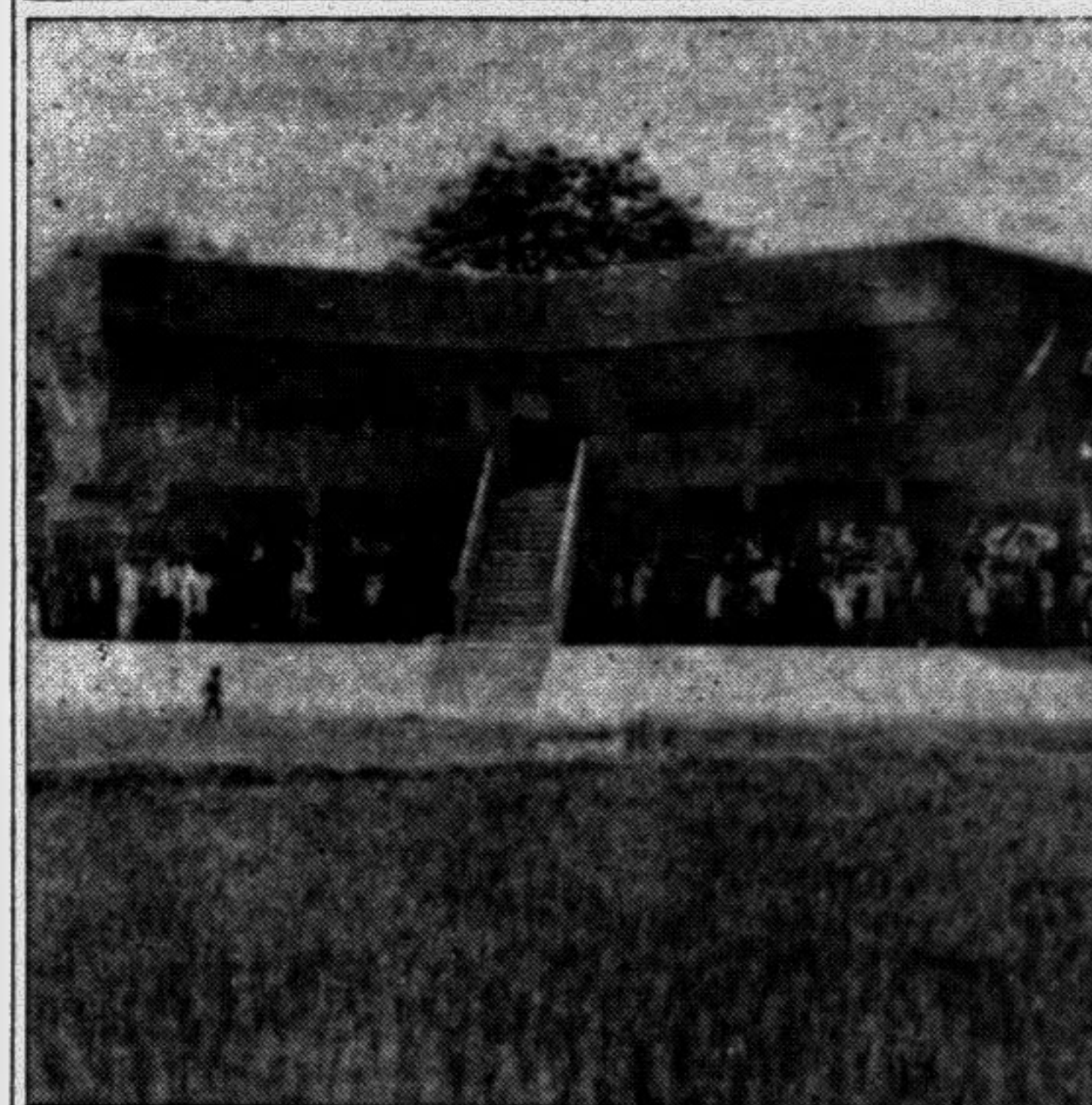
There are two big irrigation projects named Chandpur irrigation project and Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda irrigation project. These two irrigation projects are run by Bangladesh Water Development Board, Chandpur unit.

About one lakh acres of land was brought under Irri-Boro

cultivation at Chandpur irrigation projects in this season. It was expected that about sixty to seventy maunds of paddy would be produced in per one acre but actually per acre production of paddy is between forty to fifty maunds.

So the total target of paddy production in per acre is less than that of last year. The target of paddy production at Matlab Meghna-Dhanagoda irrigation project has also failed.

The production cost of one maund of paddy is between Tk two hundred to two hundred fifty but the farmers are compelled to sell their products between Tk one hundred fifty to one hundred seventy five which is less of production cost.



BARISAL: CARITAS Bangladesh, a non-government organisation, has completed construction of 15 multipurpose cyclone shelters in the southern region during '92-'93 financial year. The picture shows one of the cyclone shelters in Kalapara. —Star photo

Saifur reviews latest flood situation in Sylhet

SYLHET, June 15: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in a meeting held here Sunday with the district level officials of different departments reviewed the latest flood situation in Sylhet, reports BSS.

The district administration informed the minister that there were enough food and relief materials to meet any eventualities arising out of the flood in the district, an official handout said Monday.

Detailed discussions were also held on the post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme, distribution of water-purifying tablets, oral saline and sinking of tubewells in the affected areas.

Saifur Rahman expressed his satisfaction at the overall arrangement made by the district administration to tackle the flood situation. He unequiv-

ocally declared that nobody would be allowed to play foul games or politics with the sufferings of the affected people.

Regarding the permanent solution of the perennial flood problem of Sylhet district, the minister said, the solution of flood problem here lies with the comprehensive construction of the Kushiara-Surma dyke (embankment). He directed the Water Development Board officials to undertake rebuilding and reconstruction programmes of the Kushiara-Surma dyke.

Later, the minister presided over a meeting of the district level officials at Maulvi Bazar to review the latest flood situation of the district.

BNP MPs Khondaker M A Malek, Khaleda Rabbani, AL MP Azizur Rahman and JP MP Ebadur Rahman were present in the meeting.

Chandpur fishermen hard hit by scarcity of fish

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, June 15: About one lakh fishermen of the district have been facing innumerable problems due to scarcity of fish in rivers, ponds and canals.

It is reported some varieties of fish have already perished due to unplanned irrigation projects and arbitrary use of pesticides in the agricultural fields. Besides many low lying areas have been brought under crop cultivation turning fish breeding centres into agricultural lands.

Water level in the river Padma and Meghna have fallen to a great extent. As a result of this hilsa fish productions have also been reduced in these rivers.

Moreover, due to shortage of fund, the fishermen are finding

it hard to buy fishing materials. The prices of fishing materials have reached very high in recent months.

They allege that they are not receiving bank loans due to complicated bank procedures. As a result they are forced to borrow money from the land owners or rich businessmen at a high rate of interest. The fishermen further allege that they are deprived of receiving 'Jalmahals' lease through cooperative societies as societies are dominated by some influential quarters.

It is further reported that most of the cooperative societies are managed by non-fishermen group.



FARIDPUR: The River Research Institute, located just 10 kilometers away from the main Faridpur town, was set up to study various problems of rivers in the country. There are a number of model rivers on which experts carry experiments to find out effects of waves, erosion, rise and decline in water levels. A number of foreign scientists are working together with local scientists. Construction works of a number structures and buildings still remain incomplete. — Star photo