District roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Torrential rain damages crops on 58,254 acres

July 10: Standing crops on 58,254 acres of land in seven thanas of the district have been damaged due to torrential rain and on rush of hilly water in the last two weeks, reports UNB.

Of the damaged crops, 8,509 acres were damaged in Sadar, 12,745 acres in Nabinagar, 22,062 acres in Nasirnagar, 3,673 acres in Kasba, 6945 acres in Sarail, 195 acres in Akhaura and 4,125 acres in Bancharampur thanas of the district.

The water level of river Titas and is tributaries are flowing above the danger level.

Besides, vast areas in Maniknagar, Barikandi, Marichakandi, Ullukandi in Sadar thana were eroded by erosion, local people said.

BARISAL

Work on five projects in progress

July 10: Construction work on five projects at a cost of Tk 9,06,93,000 in pour southern districts under Public Works Department (PWD) is progressing past and is expected to be completed soon, reports BSS.

The districts are : Barisal, Shariatpur, Madaripur and Gopalganj.

According to an official source the projects include construction of modern hospitals, establishment of coronary unit and a women hostel at Sher-E-Bangla Medical College.

Meanwhile, about eighty per cent works on these projects been completed.

Power Development Board (PDB) has realized outstanding bills amounting to Tk 1.40 crore in the month of June from the consumers of Barisal paurashava area under commercial operation.

Meanwhile, PDB has disconnected 746 electric connections of paurashava area during the period, an official source said.

The board has an outstanding bills of about Tk 5,60,60,000 mainly with the government agencies, the source said.

There are 4,362 commercial, 12,847 domestic and 25 high tension consumers of electricity under this paurashava.

COMILLA

Youngman stabbed to death

July 10 : A young mari was stabbed to death and five others were injured in a clash between the rival groups at Kasharypatty in the town on Ashura day, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said a mourning procession was brought out in the town commemorating the deaths in Karbala. Suddenly the clash broke out in the procession over the possession a cycle.

The agitated people on the following morning brought out a procession with the dead body demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits responsible for the incident.

Another report says : Two people including a minor boy were killed in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong and Comilla-Laksham highways on July 1, police said.

Amanat Pramanik (40) of Pabna district was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Nowtola on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Shuman (8), a student Comilla Modern School, was run over by a speeding bus at Sreemantapur on Comilla-Laksam highway. He met the tragic end while crossing the road.

NOAKHALI

2.44 lakh saplings to be distributed

July 10: The Forest Extension Department has taken up a programme to distribute 2.44 lakh saplings of different trees among the people of six thanas, reports UNB.

Official sources said the saplings are being sold to the people at minimum prices. the saplings include coconut, mehagony, arjun, debdaru, karai and teek.

Another report adds : At least 55 projects are being executed in three thanas of the district under Test Relief Programme during current rainy season.

Government has sanctioned 103 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of the projects in Sadar, Chatkhil and Begumganj thanas.

The projects included repair of roads, educational institutions, mosques, embankments and clearing of water hyacinths.

MADARIPUR

Cattle lifting rampant

July 10 : Rampant lifting of cattle in Kuchiamora village at Shirkhara union of Sadar thana causing panic among the poor farmers of the area, reports UNB.

Six cows were stolen from the village during last two weeks.

Farmers were staying in the cattle-sheds at night to protect their cows from the cattlelifters, local people said.

They urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to check the rampant cow stealing and save the poor farmers from great monetary loss.

A young housewife of Shirkhara village in Sadar thana of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking poison recently.

Sandha Rani (18), wife of Sree Sanjib, was frequently being tortured by her husband and in-laws for dowry since their marriage.

Family sources said the Rani was tortured more after she failed to collect the dowry money from her poor parents.

Finding no other alternative, Rani took her life by taking poison.

A UD case has been filed with the local thana in this connection.

MADHABPUR

Seven primary schools reconstructed

July 10: Seven government primary schools were reconstructed in Madhabpur thana in 1992-93 fiscal year at a cost of Taka 28.50 lakh under the third flood rehabilitation scheme, reports BSS.

According to Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO), Madhabpur besides these, 16 government primary schools were repaired in the thana at a cost of Taka eight lakh.

Five government primary schools were reconstructed in the thana in 1991-92 and 1992-93 fiscal years under general education scheme at a cost of Taka 19.50 lakh, the TNO said.

PABNA

Seven bodies recovered

July 10 : Seven bodies out of 20 missing passengers of a capsized boat were recovered from the river Padma near Puplirchar area in Sujanagar thana Friday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Azhar Uddin (60) of Bera thana Pabna, Rebeka Khatun (2) of Sramik Colony of Rajbari town, Abtaf Ali (42) of Kanairhat village in Bera thana, Meher uddin Bepari (60) of Patirhat are of Rajbari, Nidan Mia (35) of Belkuchi thana in Sirajganj, Borhanuddin Khatun (25) of Kamarpara area of Rajbari, and Zarina Khatun (25) of Tatiban in Sujanagar thana.

The machanised-boat with 60 passengers on board bound for Gudarbazar of Rajbari was capsized on the river Padma near Jaukuri area of Sujanagar on Thursday.

SIRAJGANJ

Miscreants kill 2 day-labourers

July 10: Two day-labourers including a minor-boy were murdered by unidentified miscreants, when they were sleeping at their village home in Sadar thana of the district Tuesday night, police said on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Abdur Rahman (18) of village Saidabad and Alamin (12) of village Mohanpur. Both of them died on the spot.

Abdur Rahman was charged with sharp knife when he was sleeping at the guest room of his residence. Alamin was also killed in a similar manner when he was sleeping at the courtyard of his residence.

However, reasons behind these killing could not be known immediately. Both the bodies were recovered by police this morning.

NARSINGDI

Rice distributed among destitutes

July 10: About five metric tons of rice was distributed among the 350 destitute women of Raipur thana in the district last week, reports UNB.

The distribution programme was arranged by Rural Economic Development Association (REDA).

Abdul Ali Mridha, MP, distributed the rice at a simple function among the women as chief guest while it was presided over by Ismail Mridha.

Among others, Mozzamel Haque and Ibrahim Mridha, Vice President and Secretary of REDA were present on the occasion.

MOULVIBAZAR: Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) brought out a procession at the town recently demanding permanent solution to flood problem in the district and also demanded reconstruction of embankments. —Star photo

Tk 10 lakh machinery lying under open sky in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 10: Machinery of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) worth about Taka 10 lakh have been lying under open sky at Kalibari under Sirajganj district for about 25 years. A large number of spare parts have already been removed for unknown reasons.

It is gathered that the machinery were brought to Sirajganj by the then WAPDA in 1970 for use in Sirajganj town protection scheme which include : four heavy bulldozers earth compact and dumper machines. A section office was set up for maintenance. Two guards and one section officer were also posted. The office and barrack of the section remain closed almost all the time, it is alleged.

A source of Sirajganj BWDB department said that the machinery are of no use now since the spare parts are no longer available these days.

Another report says : Rampant catching of fish fry in the Jamuna and the tributaries threatens normal production of fishes in Sirajganj district.

It is gathered that fish fry are being caught rampantly in different parts of Sirajganj district.

With rise in water level in the Jamuna and its tributaries including Karatoa, Fulzor, Bangalee and Harasogar, section of people dealing in fish fries have been active in such practice. Paid agents of fry businessmen mainly the fishermen are engaged in catching fish fries from the rivers. These fishermen have set up fry catching nets in vast areas of riverbeds from Kazipur of Sirajganj district to Nagarbari ghat in Pabna district. Besides, fries are being caught from the tributaries of the river.

A large number of stores have been set up in the riverside areas including Sirajganj ghat attract buyers. One kilogram of fish fry is now sold between Taka 2000 to 3000 at these river side stores. Other than the local markets, fish fries are being sent to different places of other districts by various means of transport including railway and trucks. During transportation a large number of fish fries are damaged causing harm to future production of fishes.

The concerned authorities seem to take no notice about such illegal business.

Erosion renders 500 homeless in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, July 10 : About 500 families in six unions in three thanas of the district were rendered homeless due to continuous erosion by river Brahmaputra during the last seven days, reports UNB.

The affected thanas are Sadar, Phulchari and Saghata. The unions Gidari, Mollachar, Ghapcha, and Kamarjani in Sadar, Gajaria Uria and Arendhabari in Phulchari and river side areas of Saghata thana have gone under water.

Besides vast areas of Pourashava were also inundated.

Among the affected villages of the areas Dhutichara, Analersara Gullarshop, Kaicher Char and Teliarghop Char are wrost hit, local people said.

Standing crops on vast acres of lands were damaged and most of the educational institutions in the affected areas were closed for on rush of flood water.

Flash flood damages crops on 5270 hectares

HABIGANJ, July 10:Crops on more than 5270 hectares out of 13,849 hectares have been totally damaged by recent flash flood caused by heavy downpour and on-rush of hilly waters in Madhabpur thana under Habiganj district, reports BSS.

According to Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO), Madhabpur, aman paddy was damaged in 3,247 hectares while aus paddy in 1,751 hectares. Jute on 98 hectares and vegetables on 151 hectares went under flood water in the thana, he said.

Seed-beds on 35 hectares were also damaged in Madhabpur by flash flood, he said.

Unemployment problem grips Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 10 : The number of landless and unemployed people is gradually increasing in all 13 thanas of the district.

Unemployment of the educated youth is creating social unrest, local leaders said.

Out of a total of 21 lakh people in the district 65 per cent depend on agriculture, 10 per cent on other profession and the remaining 25 per cent are unemployed.

Of the agriculturists, 60 per cent are landless, 25 per cent are marginal farmers and only 15 per cent have lands of their own.

Regular floods, drought, cyclone and other natural calamities damage crops fully or partially every year.

Besides, huge cultivable lands are eroded by the river Meghna, Dhanu, Ghorauttra and the Arialkha every year turning a good number of people landless every year.

The shortage of foodgrains is a regular feature in the district. Village money lenders and high price of agricultural inputs are also partially responsible for making people landless as well as unemployed, some leaders said.

Chickenpox breaks out

Chickenpox has broken out in an alarming proportion. About 500 people have sofar been affected by the disease in different parts of the district.

Everyday a good number of poor patients rush to the thana health complexes and hospitals for treatment. Most then go back disappointed for want of necessary medicine, sources said.

Children of the poor families are the worst sufferers as their parents can not manage medicine for want of money.

The worst affected areas are Itna, Tarail, Karimganj, Bhairab, Kuliarchar, Bajitpur, Mitamain, Hossainpur and Kishoreganj Sadar thanas of the district.

Local people alleged that taking the advantage of the situation some unscrupulous drug-traders are selling the necessary medicine at on exorbitant rate. Local leaders and people urge the concerned authority to take necessary steps immediately to check the spread of the disease.

W Rahman Jute Mills reopens in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, July 10: W Rahman Jute Mills, one of the oldest private sector mills, was reopened on Wednesday after being laid off for long five years, reports UNB.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan formally reopened the mills at a simple ceremony.

Addressing the function, Bhuiyan stressed the need for setting up new industries and rehabilitating the old ones to create job opportunities and lead the country towards a sustainable economic growth.

The Minister said the mills was reopened following the pre-election commitment of Begum Zia's government and assured that all other laid off mills would be reopened in phases.

The present government is striving for institutionalised democracy and make the country economically self-reliant, he said and emphasised on salvaging the limping jute sector.

Bhuiyan said that due to the wrong policy of the previous government, the jute sector alone incurred a loss of Tk. 4,000 crore and jute mills in the private sector had been frequently declared laid off following continued losses.

He also underlined the need for congenial relations between owners and workers to make any industry profitable.

"We should put in our best efforts so that we can set a trend in the country that a 'sick industry' can again stand on its feet", said the mills Managing Director Latifur Rahman.

W Rahman Jute Mills, established in 1964 on 68 acres of land, was the first jute mills owned by a Bengali entrepreneur.

Rahman, who is also the President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, urged the government to give adequate financial support to the mill so that it could run smoothly.

Breach in Jamuna river embankment

Over 100 villages flooded in Bogra district

BOGRA, July 10 : More than 100 villages of Sariakandi and Dhunat thanas have been submerged with a deluge of water pouring through a 300-feet breach in the Jamuna river embankment, reports UNB.

Another 100 feet of the embankment might collapse under the surges of mighty Jamuna, following above danger level, by late Thursday night, observers here apprehended.

Water started entering the villages in a large volume early this morning with the river crossing its danger level, the Deputy Commissioner of the district told UNB over telephone.

He, however, said the situation was not serious yet. "The situation may worsen if the present rate of rise in the water level of the Jamuna continues for next three or four days," he said.

On Monday, 300 feet of the embankment was washed way by the swelling river and water started gushing through the breach at village Awlankandi Tuesday night.

According to Water Development Board sources here, the erosion of the embankment was due to an abrupt rise of water level in the river during the past few days. The river will swell further in the next 24 hours, they added.

Flood situation in Sirajganj worsens

A report from Sirajganj says: The flood situation in the district further worsened with the Jamuna registering a 20cm rise in its water level at Sirajganj point in last 24 hours.

Tk 3.28 cr embankment project will soon be completed

BARISAL, July 10: Construction of an embankment and water structure at an expenditure of Taka 3.28 crore is nearing completion in Bakergonj thana of Barisal district, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Water Development Board has been implementing the project with the financial assistance from International Development Association (IDA).

Meanwhile, work of 18 kilometres of embankment, 8 channels and two sluicegates have been completed and other works have been progressing past, the source said.

Work on 81 projects progressing fast

A total of 81 projects has been progressing fast in Pirojpur district. About 1007 metric tons of wheat has been allocated for the project. These projects are being executed under Food-for-Work Programme.

According to an official source, the projects being implemented include construction and re-construction of roads, bridges and culverts and excavation and re-excavation of canals and leveling of playground of educational institutions.

Twenty projects are being implemented each in Pirojpur Sadar and Swarupkati thanas 12 each in Bhandaria and Motbaria, 10 in Nazirpur and 7 in Kowkhali thanas.

Another report adds: Public Works Department (PWD), Barisal circle, has been constructing 37 thana health and family welfare centres in eight southern districts including Barisal, Jhalakati, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalgonj.

According to an official source, government had sanctioned Taka 33,55,87,000 for the construction of these health and family welfare centres. On an average 91 per cent work has been completed.

Work on 18 projects has been completed. Other projects are expected to be completed soon.

Once completed, about 20,000 children and mothers will get health care facilities from these centres.

4 killed in road mishaps

PABNA, July 10 : Two people were killed on the spot when a truck skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at Sarai Kandi in Iswardi thana early today (Friday), reports UNB.

The victims were identified as driver Abdul Aziz (42) and helper Mohabbat Ali (26) of the ill-fated truck.

Police said the Dhaka-bound truck, loaded with mangoes, from Rajshahi met the accident on Pabna-Natore Highway when helper Mohabbat Ali lost control over it.

Helper Ali was driving the truck as he was asked by driver Aziz to run the vehicle after he became sleepy.

Police recovered the bodies from the spot and sent those to Pabna Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered with the local thana in this connection.

A report from Sirajganj says: Two people including a minor girl were crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Bhuiyangati in Rayganj thana on Bogra-Nagarbari Highway this (Thursday) morning.

The dead identified as Rahim (10) and his sister Jarina (8) from Gaibandha were hit by a Nagarbari bound truck. They met the accident while crossing the road.

The driver managed to flee with the truck and a case has been filed with the Rayganj thana.

Lightning kills one

Another report from Comilla adds : A young man was killed by lightning while crossing a beel by a boat on Saturday.

The dead was identified as Abdul Jalil (18), an HSC examinee from Shahebabad College of Brahmanpara thana.

Another report adds: The election of the executive committee of the Comilla District Muslim Marriage Registrars Association was held on Sunday.

Mohammad Abdul Haq and Badiur Rahman were elected President and general secretary of the association respectively.

Unnatural deaths on increase in Jamalpur district

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 10 : Unnatural deaths have gradually increased in all the thanas of the district during the last two months.

At least 29 persons were killed in different cases including, lightning, thunder storm, clashes, suicide and in other related incidents, according to sources.

Sarishabari thana police recovered the body of one Mujibur Rahman of village Joynagar recently.

Arif Hossian, a student of class nine of Melandah Pilot High School was killed by lightning while swimming in a pond near the local BJC godown.

One Muzaffar Hosstan, son of Dr Abul Hossian of village Duriavita under Sarishabari thana was allegedly killed by his lover's brothers at Pakhadupi recently.

Jamalpur police recovered his body from a forest of the same village later.

A case has been filed with Jamalpur police station in this connection.

None has been arrested.

Another person Fatik Miah, reportedly killed by electric shock when he accidentally came in touch with an electric wire in his house. He died on the spot. Another three persons where killed in similar way.

Two children, Babu (3) and Shuhage (5) were drowned in the river Jamuna near Jagannathganj railway ferry ghat recently.

Two young women, Sayed Banu (25) and Shakhina (24), were killed by lightening at Aowna union under Sarishabari thana recently.

At least 11 person's more were reportedly killed by thunder storm in different places in the district during the last two months. Thana-wise death tolls are: Dewanganj-3, Islampur-4, Melandah-2, Madarganj-1, and Jamalpur sadar-1.

One, Sufia Khatun (38) was allegedly killed and two other's seriously injured in a clash between two rival groups of a brothel under Sarishabari thana recently. The injured persons were rushed to the Sarishabari hospital in a critical condition.

One, Mustafa (28) of village Kunabari was killed by snake bite while he was on his way to visit his relatives.

Three persons committed suicide at different places of the district during the same period. The reasons for their deaths could not be known.

CHANDPUR: The kancha latrine of local Fire Brigade office causing inconveniences to the students of Pratima Girls' High School. — Star photo

Unnayan Parishad meet held in Noakhali

MAIJDEE COURT, July 10: A meeting of Noakhali District Unnayan Bastabayan Parishad was held at the auditorium of local Bar Association recently, reports UNB.

Representatives from different socio-political organisations, business community and professional bodies attended the meeting, chaired by President of the Parishad Abul Kalam Chowdhury.

It was addressed, among others, by Joynal Abedin, Mollah Habibur Rashid, Azizul Haq and Golam Haider.

The meeting decided to bring out processions in the thana and district headquarters to press home their 10-point demands and warned the government that they would go for a hunger strike if their demands are not fulfilled.

The parishad demanded over-all development of the district, including setting up of a medical college, textile mills, a university and abolition of quota system in recruitment in government services.

3 awarded life-term for murder in Comilla

COMILLA, July 10: Three people were awarded life-term imprisonment for committing murder and dacoity, court sources said here Thursday, reports UNB.

The convicted Mujibur Rahman alias Venga, Seraj Mia and Mohammad Ali were also fined Tk 2,000 each or in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more.

The case, in brief, was that an armed dacoity was committed in Elliotganj bazar of Daudkandi thana on April 28, 1987. The dacoits while fleeing shot dead Rezaul Karim (15), a student of Elliotganj High School.

A case was filed against six people in this connection and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them.

After examining the evidences and records the Additional Sessions Judge, 2nd Court, Comilla, awarded the punishment on June 30 and acquitted Kala Mia, Khurshed and Shamsuddin.

Two die of food poisoning

Two people, identified as father and son, died of food poisoning at Hasanpur village in Burichang thana, police said.

Villagers said Shamsul Islam (28) and Faruk (4) — the father and son, took pineapple in the evening of Saturday and died following severe stomach pain in the night.

The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy and a case of unnatural deaths has been filed with the police.

Six dacoits arrested

Police in separate raids arrested six highway dacoits from different parts of Chawddagram thana in the last one week.

They also recovered some looted goods following their confessional statements.

The arrested are Amanullah, Liton, Abul Kalam, Fazlul Haque and Mohammad Ismail.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rifles arrested four alleged smugglers and seized contrabands worth about Tk 34.01 from different parts of the border areas of the district during the month of June.

A total of 171 cases were filed with different thanas in this connection.