

District roundup

SYLHET

2,58,000 acres of land lying fallow

From Our Correspondent
 July 24: A total of about 2,58,000 acres of land has been lying fallow for years together in the four districts of greater Sylhet region.
 Crops worth about Taka 100 crore can easily be produced by cultivating these lands, agricultural officials said here.
 The total acreage includes, 62,000 acres in 11 thanas of Sylhet, 23,000 acres in 6 thanas of Moulvibazar, 1,39,000 acres in 10 thanas of Sunamganj and 34,000 acres in 7 thanas of Habiganj district.
 Different cash crops like boro, aush and aman paddy, wheat, spices, pulses and others can easily be cultivated, said the official.
 Another report says: A 13-year boy was electrocuted at a place near Fenchuganj Jettighat recently.
 The victim, Enamul Haque, son of one Late Sunu Miah of village Madhural under Balaganj thana while was returning home from the Ferryghat came in touch with the wire of an electric pole. He died on the spot.
 A case of unnatural death was registered with the Fenchuganj thana. The body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

GAIBANDHA
Buses inadequate on routes
From Our Correspondent
 July 24: Inadequate number of buses on Gaibandha-Bogra and Gaibandha-Rangpur routes has been causing a lot of troubles to the passengers.
 It is reported that the conductors begin to collect passengers from almost all the places. The driver stops the bus where he wishes and collect passengers from the places where the buses are not scheduled to stop.
 Overloading and reckless driving on these routes have been a regular feature. Buses are often found overloaded with goods. The conductors take as many passengers as he desires without considering the capacity of the bus.
 Express buses playing between Palashbari-Bogra and Palashbari-Rangpur are no more express in true sense. The buses fail to maintain timing. This causes delay in the journey from one place to another.

GAIBANDHA

Buses inadequate on routes

From Our Correspondent
 July 24: District Anti-corruption Bureau has submitted a chargesheet against five persons including former Upazila Chairman and Jatiya Party leader AKM Hasan Hazari for their involvement in misappropriation of Taka 12 lakh.
 According to the allegation, Taka 18 lakh was earned as tax from Melandah, Hazrabari and Baitoli Bazar. But only Taka 6 lakh was deposited in the upazila revenue fund and the last was misappropriated.
 Earlier, Anti-corruption Bureau submitted a case under Anti-corruption Act.
 According to report, another case submitted by district Anti-corruption Bureau against AKM Hasan Hazari for misappropriation Taka 4 lakh which was earned revenue from Melandah bazar.
 About 500 students of Tirutha Suttapeer High School in Jamalpur sadar thana submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner for corruption and misuse of power against their Head teacher Abu Talib here recently.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Construction of PTI going on in full swing

July 24: Construction work of the second Primary Training Institute (PTI) here is going on in full swing at a cost of Taka 2.62 crore, reports UNB.
 Official sources here said on Friday that Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education was providing the fund for construction of the institute.
 Of the total Taka 67.9 lakh has already been spent for the construction of administrative building, Taka 70.5 for men's hostel, Taka 59.45 for women's hostel, Taka 10.98 for the Superintendents quarters and Taka 53 lakh for land procurement.
 Officials said 85 per cent of the total work has already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished by September, 1993.
 A 13-member executive committee of the Chapainawabganj Press Club was elected here in a meeting on Monday.
 Abdur Razzak Raju of the Dainik Dinkal, AZM Tasique Islam Sarkar of UNB and Mahbubul Alam of the Inqilab were elected President, Vice President and General Secretary respectively.
 The election was held on July 19 at its biennial general meeting.

SHERPUR

Six hurt, 75 houses damaged in storm

July 24: At least six people were injured and about 75 thatched houses damaged when a violent storm hit a village in Nakla on Monday, reports UNB.
 The storm that lasted for half an hour also uprooted many trees, officials sources said.
 The injured were admitted to Nakla Thana Health Centre.
 Deputy Commissioner Ataur Rahman Majumdar visited the affected Boropjia village and distributed 300 metric tons of rice among the villagers.
 Local people urged the concerned authorities to send relief materials to them and take necessary arrangements to rehabilitate them.

JAMALPUR

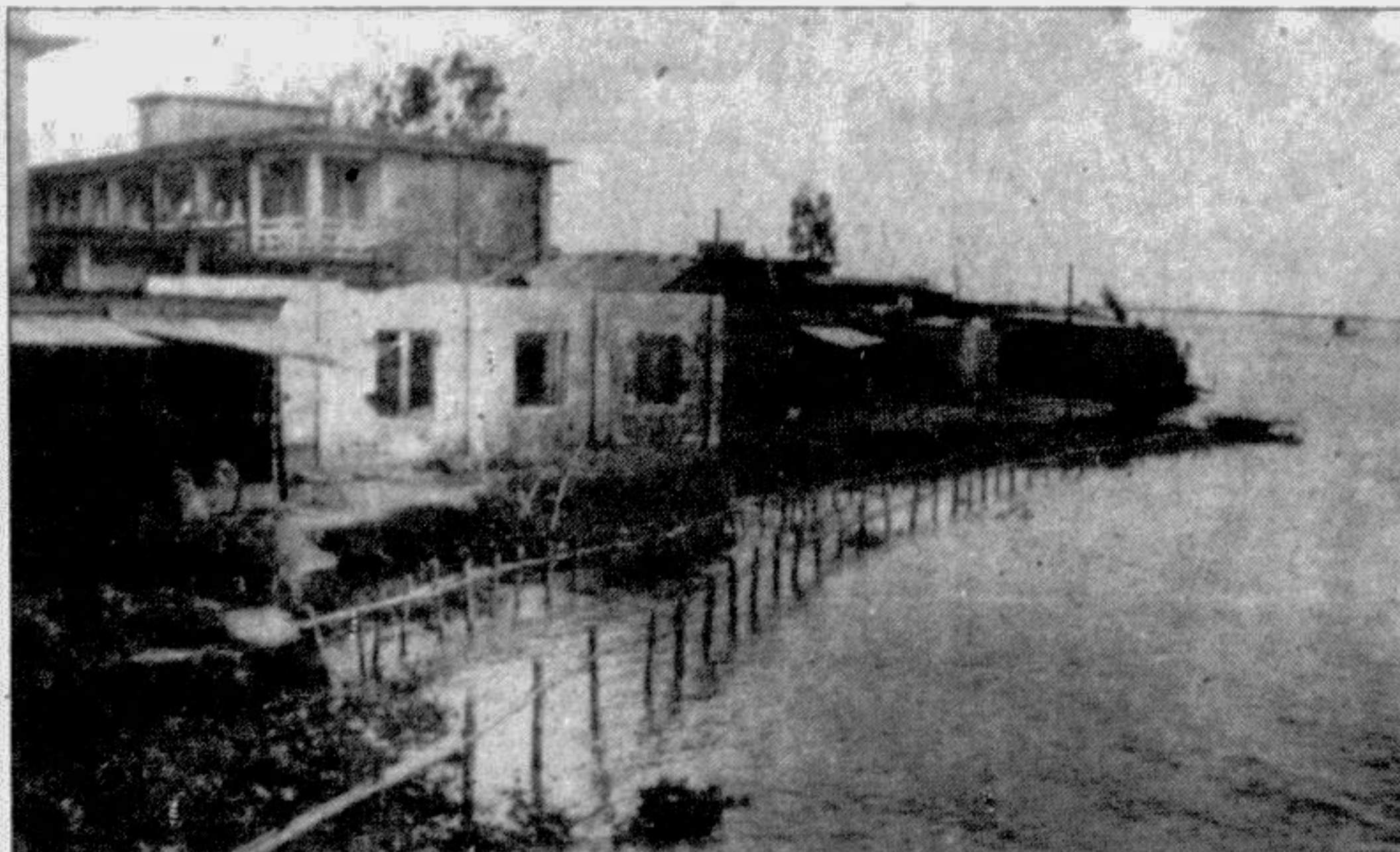
Five face misappropriation charge

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COMILLA

Relief distributed among flood affected people

July 24: Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia on Friday visited the flood-affected areas of Burichang, Devidwar and Muradnagar thanas of Comilla district, reports BSS.
 During his visit, the minister distributed cash money amounting Taka fifty thousand, 100 bundles of CI sheet, sufficient quantity of rice, chira and muri among the flood affected people, a PID handout said.
 While visiting the flood-affected areas, the minister emphatically stated that the present democratic government would always stand by the flood-affected people. This government is committed to ensure the welfare of the common people, he added.
 Nine unions of Burichang and three unions of Devidwar thanas have been seriously affected by the flood water and thousands of people took shelter at schools and buildings after the damage of the Gumati Embankment on Thursday night, the handout added.



GAIBANDHA: The Fulchhari thana parishad building may be devoured at any time by the erosion of the river Brahmaputra.

Erosion renders thousands of families homeless

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 24: The erosion of the river Ganges and Gorai have rendered over 20,000 families homeless in three thanas of the district during the last ten years.
 The rivers also eroded many houses, offices, educational institutions, business establishments, culverts, roads and vast tract of cultivable land in the affected area.
 The rate of erosion has aggravated the situation. But the situation was not so before two decades ago. The river Ganges and Gorai were far from the present course. The erosion took serious turn in 1982-83.
 Earlier, the river Ganges and Gorai were deep and wide and those could carry much water. But due to heavy siltation, the rivers gradually lost their depth and changed their courses.
 The heavy siltation has been caused by low flow of water from the upper stream for the unilateral withdrawal of water by India.
 The surging tide and wave directly hit the banks of the rivers round the year. But during the rainy season, the rate of erosion increases alarmingly.
 The river Gorai has eroded vast tract of land in Kumarkhali including part of pouna bazar, old M N High School, Kumarkhali Degree College and threatening a number of handloom industries and other institutions.
 The Irrigation Department of the then Pakistan constructed two earthen armoured groynes to protect Kumarkhali town from erosion. But due to wrong site selection, the groynes did not work properly and institutions like M N High School, Kurmerkhali Degree College and pouna bazar were eroded by the river.
 The erosion also affected main canal of Ganges Kobadav Pur, seven miles away from Kushtia town. The project authority have been spending huge amount of money every year to protect the project. Large number of houses on the bank of the project have been devoured by the erosion where 5000 people have become homeless.
 The G K Project authority placed many percupines at a cost of Taka 20 lakh to save the main canal. The authority also spent a considerable amount to save Kumarkhali town.
 The Gorai river also eroded a portion of Jayanabad village of Kumarkhali thana where 260 families became homeless.
 The river Ganges also eroded the bank near intake channel of G K Project threatening approach road towards Bheramara Paksey ferry ghat compelling Roads and Highways department to construct alternate road to maintain uninterrupted communication from southern to northern part of the country.

Paddy on 55,800 acres of land under flood water in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, July 24: State Minister for Shipping Harun-ur-Rashid visited some flood affected areas nearby the river Titra to see the extent of damage to property and sufferings of the people here, reports UNB.
 During the visit on Wednesday, he was informed that about 55,800 acres of paddy land of the district were inundated due to flood water and heavy rainfall for the last few days.
 Normal life of the people of 85 unions of the district were being hampered, said a PID handout Thursday.
 An amount of Taka one lakh, 50 metric tons of rice, huge amount of biscuit, sari and lungi have been given as relief for the flood victims.
 The State Minister asked the district administration to take all possible measures to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people.
 He called upon the affluent section of the society to come forward with assistance to the victims.
Fund for mosques
 BSS reports: State Minister for Shipping Harun-ur-Rashid on Wednesday handed over a cheques of Taka one lakh seven hundred and ten to the representatives of 54 mosques of the district at a simple ceremony arranged at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room here.
 Speaking on the occasion, the State Minister said, present government gave top priority to education sector in order to disseminate proper education to the common people.
 He said nineteen percent of the budget has been allocated for education sector for the current financial year despite resource constraint.
 The State Minister stressed the need for religious education to establish a peaceful and corruption-free society.
 He urged the religious scholars to play a vital role in nation building activities.
 Later, he distributed 45 copies of holy Quran given by Islamic Foundation to representatives of mosques and madrasahs.
 Local leaders and eminent citizens were present on the occasion. He planted a sapling at the local circuit house premises.
One electrocuted
 A UNB report says: A young man was electrocuted at Alamnagar village in Nabinagar thana recently.
 The victim identified as Shahid Miah (30) of the village was killed after he came in touch with an electric wire after taking a bath on July 8, witness said.



CHANDPUR: The local police recently seized the fish fry. Despite government ban, some dishonest people are found catching these which decreases fish production.

Problems grip Kurigram town

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, July 24: Most of the roads of Kurigram town are in deplorable condition. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points due to lack of proper drainage system.
 The roads become muddy after heavy rainfall. The kutcha roads go under knee-deep water causing untold sufferings to the pedestrians and vehicular movement.
 The dirty roadside ditches are filled with filths and garbage increasing mosquito menace. Most ditches and ponds in the town has been covered by water hyacinths.
 The unhygienic condition of the hotels and restaurants is also posing threat to the public health. Adulterated food stuff are openly sold in the open places. Accommodation problem has created problem to members of the public and government employees.
 Frequent power failure and inadequate street lights have aggravated the situation. The town plunges into darkness after sunset almost every day helping anti-social elements to commit crimes.

Three drowned, one killed

SIRAJGANJ, July 24: Two minor, including a girl, drowned in separate incidents in Belkuchi thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.
 Villagers said Korban Ali (12) son of Kalu Pramanik of Tala village was washed away by the waves while playing 'jumps' on the river Jamuna with his friends.
 Debi (13), daughter of Abdus Samad of Khidramatia village was drowned in a ditch. She fell into the ditch while playing on its banks.
 Another message from Dinajpur adds: A boy was drowned in the river Atrai at Bhushirbandar on Thursday.
 According to family sources, the victim Mostafa son of Morshad in Chirirbandar thana went to Bhushirbandar on the bank of the river Atrai. He suddenly fell into the river and drowned.
 Local people recovered the body and a case has been filed with the local police.
 Another report from Naogaon says: A young man was killed by snake bite at Tarmolte village on Naogaon-Mohidevpur road Tuesday.
 Witnesses said Rafiqul Islam, a road construction labourer, died on the spot when a poisonous snake bite him. He was sleeping by the road side in the night.
 The body was taken to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Shahjalal varsity teachers' assoc executives



From Our Correspondent

Sylhet, July 24: Election to the executive committee of the Teachers' Association of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology was held recently.
 The 11-member committee was elected with the following persons: President: Professor Habibur Rahman, Head of the Department of Social Works, Vice-President: Dr Shahn Ahtar, General Secretary: Md Najmul Ashab, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Joint Secretary Md Yusuf, Treasurer: Md Abdul Hai Chowdhury and Members: Dr Md Jaiul Abedin, Dr Md Strajul Haque Miah, Md Shahid Ullah, Md Mamun-ur-Rasid Khondakar, Syed Anis-ul-Haque and Md Attullah.

Police recover electric wire

FENI, July 24: Police recovered 60 kg stolen electric wire from a canal and a house of Sayedul Huq at Sonua in Sadar thana Friday night, reports UNB.
 Acting on secret information, police raided the area and seized the stolen wire. None was, however, arrested in this connection.
 Local people alleged that a gang of thieves are active in the area and almost every night electric wires are being stolen plunging the area into darkness.
 The electricity and telephone subscribers time and again urged the authorities to take steps to stop stealing of wires and nab the thieves but no effective measures have yet been taken by them, they added.

Mini Sundarban project now uncertain

From Our Correspondent
NATORE, July 24: Due to administrative apathy and negligence of Forest Department officials an afforestation programme called "Mini Sundarbans Project" which was implemented at a cost of Taka 16 lakh at Diar Bahadurpur Char of Lalpur thana under Natore district is now uncertain.
 According to official sources, about 10 square mile areas of Lalpur thana turned into a charland following the erosion of river Padma several years ago, the government took up an elaborate afforestation programme on three hundred acres of land. About 1.50 lakh saplings were planted during this time with the assistance of European Economic Community (EEC) through the Land Ministry. The Government also provided about 494 destitute families with Taka 8,100 and two bundles of CI sheets each on the condition that they would look after the saplings.
 Problems started when the people of Verarama thana of Kushtia district demanded parts of the afforested area under their thana.
 During the last three months, hundreds of people of Verarama thana attacked the area at least for 1 1/2 times and cut down about ten thousand trees of Shisu.
 Several cases were filed with the Lalpur thana in these regards.
 According to Lalpur thana police sources, they went to Verarama thana to arrest the persons involved in these attacks but returned without any arrest for reasons not known.

Motor workers clash, 25 hurt, 20 vehicles damaged

COMILLA, July 24: About 25 people were injured and at least 20 vehicles damaged when two rival groups of motor workers clashed in the town on Tuesday, reports UNB.
 Witnesses said the clash erupted between conductors and helpers of Paharica and Jatrisheba Paribahan at Comilla by-pass and continued till police intervened.
 The violence at the Comilla bus stand, left several passengers injured.
 Vehicular movement on the road remained suspended nearly five hours.
 Later, police cleared the road blockade.
 Another report adds: Two people were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents at Jagamohanpur of Chawddagram thana on Dhaka-Chittagong road, police said.
 In one incident a man was killed and another one injured when a passenger bus plunged into a roadside ditch on Sunday.
 The deceased could not be identified immediately. Police sent the body to Sadar hospital for autopsy and seized the vehicle.
 On the same day, an unidentified beggar was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Amtali.
 Another passenger bus skidded off the road at Chandina, injuring 25 passengers, six of them seriously. The critically injured were rushed to Comilla General Hospital.
 Three cases were filed with the police.
 Another message from Chandpur adds: A man was electrocuted at Bhurungar Char village of Sadar thana when he tried to save his milch cows last week.
 According to witnesses, a live electric wire of Pali Biddyt Samity was lying uncared for in a paddy field. When a milch cow was grazing in the field it suddenly came in touch with the wire and became restless. On seeing it the owner of the cow Mohammad Hossain rushed to save the cow and died instantaneously.

Govt launches food for education programme

JESSORE, July 24: Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam said here on Thursday that the government had launched the food for education programme side by side with the compulsory primary education to check dropout at the primary level, reports BSS.
 The minister was speaking at the inaugural function of a regional workshop on "education for all", organised by the Primary and Mass Education Department at the Jessore Zila Parishad auditorium.
 Islam said 60 per cent of the children in our country dropped out from schools within one year of their admission due to economic stringency of their parents. The parents of these children would be provided with substantial quantity of rice or wheat to check drop-out, he added.
 The minister underlined the need for bringing about qualitative change in our education system and making it life-oriented.
 The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Raushan Ali MP, Tabibur Rahman MP, Shakawat Hossain MP, Kazi Rakiuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Mass Education Division and Abdul Muktadir Chowdhury, Commissioner of Khulna Division.
 Our Correspondent adds: One person was killed, and three others were injured when a bus collided with a jeep at 8:30 am on Thursday at Chanra on Jessore-Benapole highway, three km from Jessore town. The accident occurred when the jeep of PIO (Project Implementation Officer), Jhinkergacha thana in Jessore, coming to Jessore and a bus (Jessore BA-640) was moving towards Benapole.
 The accident killed the PIO (33) and the injured persons were identified as Ranajit, Abdur Razzak and Liaquat Hossain. The injured were admitted to the Jessore General Hospital.
 A case was filed with Kotwali PS in this connection.

Lightning kills eight

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, July 24: Lightning killed another person here today, taking the death toll from such occurrences to five in the district over the last three days.
 Abul Kala, 28, died in lightning while working on his land in Dinar village of Kotwali thana today.
 Another farmer, Abdur Razzak of Khudrakathi village under Babuganj thana, was also killed by lightning while working in the fields yesterday afternoon.
 Three more persons were killed in such incidents Monday.
 Meanwhile, Banu Rani, 22, wife of one Ratan Chandra Barman of Montpur village under Raipura thana, Narsingdi, was hit by a lightning at 3 am Wednesday. Severely wounded, Rani was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), our DMCH Correspondent reported.
 A UNB from Jamalpur says: Lightning killed one person and injured 22 others in two thanas of the district.
 Witnesses said Majnu Mia (25) was struck by thunderbolt at Polashola village in Bakshiganj thana at about 5.30 pm Tuesday when he was returning home from Dhanua Kamalpur bazar. He died on the spot.
 The lightning left another seven people of the same village injured. They were admitted to Bakshiganj Thana Health Complex.
 Fifteen more people were wounded by lightning in Dandhara and Haatbandha unions in Dewanganj thana at around 11 am today. Ten of the injured were admitted to Dewanganj Thana Health Complex.
 The accident occurred when the jeep of PIO (Project Implementation Officer), Jhinkergacha thana in Jessore, coming to Jessore and a bus (Jessore BA-640) was moving towards Benapole.
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2 killed in bus plunge

SIRAJGANJ, July 24: A minibus with a bridal party plunged into a ditch near Kutirchar Bhadrnagar under the Bogra-Sirajganj highway tonight leaving two women dead and 10 injured.