

District roundup

NAOGAON

Protest against corruption of PDB workers

July 30: People from all walks of life brought out a procession at Shantahar in Adamdighi thana in protest against the alleged corruption, irregularities and mismanagement of Shantahar Power Development Board authorities on Sunday, reports UNB.

Organised by Shantahar Bidyut Grahak Sangram Parishad, the processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and demanded probe into the irregularities.

Later, a protest rally was also held near Shantahar police outpost with Sangram Parishad labour leader Mokbul Hossain in the chair.

The rally was also addressed by Shantahar poura unit BNP President Kamrul Hassan, local journalist Shahjahan and Poura Commissioner Masood Rana.

The speakers also demanded immediate withdrawal of false cases against two local journalists filed by Shantahar PDB (Resident) Engineer and called for immediate stoppage of frequent load shedding.

They also decided to observe a half-day hartal in Shantahar on July 31 if their demands were not fulfilled immediately.

Later, the processionists handed over a memorandum to the Adamdighi Thana Nirbahi Officer.

MYMENSINGH

Alleviation of poverty can only be achieved thru uplift of agriculture

July 30: The goals of poverty alleviation and economic development of our country could only be achieved through planned development of agricultural sector, reports UNB.

This was stated by the State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Md Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan while speaking as chief guest at a fresher's reception at the faculty gallery of Agriculture Engineering and Technology (AET) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently.

He also gave assurance for creating employment opportunities for Agri Engineers at Bangladesh Water Development Board and Riverine Research Institute.

The function was presided over by Prof RI Sarker, Dean of the Faculty of AET and attended by the Vice-Chancellor Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan as special guest.

The VC said the genius and skills of Agri Engineers could accelerate the overall process of agricultural development in our country.

The function was organised by the AET Faculty Students Association and addressed by Prof SN Farouk, Prof SU Talukder, Prof MR Khan, Jahangir Alam Khan, Mahboob Alam. Later a cultural function was held, said a press release.

NATORE

Release of Ershad demanded

From Our Correspondent

July 30: About three hundred workers of Jatiya Party here brought out a procession demanding immediate release of former President Ershad and protesting the unlimited corruption of present government on Sunday.

The processionists paraded the main roads of the town chanting slogans against the government.

The supporters of local Awami League also brought out a procession at the town on Sunday protesting the various corruption of the present government.

RAJSHAHI

Medicine co to plant one lakh saplings

July 30: Multinational medicine company Ciba-Geigy (Bangladesh) Limited will plant one lakh saplings throughout the country as a part of countrywide tree plantation campaign, reports BSS.

Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu on Sunday inaugurated the programme at Rajshahi divisional level by planting saplings here at Panchar Math.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, the Mayor said, there was no alternative to tree plantation to maintain ecological balance and save the country from natural disaster. He said, we could also plant trees to build forest assets for our posterity.

BARISAL

Dairy farm owners asked to utilise govt assistance

July 30: State Minister for Education, Principal Yunus Khan Sunday called upon the people to engage themselves in various economic development activities to attain self-sufficiency, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a function held here to hand over the government financial assistance to the owners of non-government dairy farms of the district. The function was attended among others by Mujibur Rahman MP and Mosarraf Hossain Monju MP.

The state minister said that the present democratic government was striving to re-vitalise the economy of the country and providing all out assistance for the self-employment projects despite resource constraints.

Principal Yunus called upon the dairy farm owners to utilise the government assistance with a view to increasing dairy products in the country.

LALMONIRHAT

Tk 5.17cr agri loan disbursed

July 30: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) disbursed more than Tk 5.17 crore as agricultural loan among the farmers of Lalmonirhat district till June 30 last, reports BSS.

According to a bank source, the loans were disbursed through 15 branches.

The bank realised outstanding loans amounting to Taka 3,64,76,000 out of Taka 13,45 crore from the loanees of the district.

The source said at least 302 certificate cases have been filed against the defaulters. Various steps have been taken to expedite disbursement of loans and to realise arrears.

The district administration has undertaken a programme to plant 50 lakh saplings of fruit bearing and timber trees in the district in the current season as a part of the country wide tree plantation programme an official handout said on Monday.

In the last fiscal year one lakh 43 thousand 647 saplings were planted in the district of which one lakh 22 thousand and 289 saplings survived.

B'BARIA

Six FP centres to be constructed

From Our Correspondent

July 30: Schemes have been taken up to construct six family welfare centres for nursing Maa-o-Shisu and Family Planning Service at different parts of the district at the cost of Taka one crore eight lakh.

The centres will be constructed at Balek union under Kaaba thana, two at Salmang union and Nabinagar Paschim union under Nabinagar thana, one at Haripur union under Naarinar thana and rest of the two at Saifulah Kandi and Rupasadi Paschim unions under Bancharampur thana of the district.

It is learnt that works of the three projects had already been started. Deputy director of family planning, Abdul Mannan said that after completion of those projects, people of those area will be able to receive children, family planning and general treatment facilities.

BARGUNA

Number of beggars on rise

July 30: The number of beggars on rise in the district and thana headquarters causing much inconveniences to the town dwellers for quite a long time, reports UNB.

Poverty, natural calamities like recurrent floodings and river erosion compelled the poor people to pour into the district and thana headquarters in search of their livelihood. Finding no job opportunities they are forced to take resort to begging.

Having failed to manage their livelihood by begging some young beggars mainly women take up flesh trade giving rise to anti-social activities.

After the sun set the young girls gather in the bus stations and cinema hall areas alluring the people.

These shelterless girls after sundown usually throng at the different bus stations and in the verandas of schools and colleges, stadium area and corridors of the government offices to pass their nights.

Town dwellers alleged that the beggars who live in an sub-human condition are spreading various infectious diseases in the town.



Dewan Aisaruddin, DC, Netrakona speaking before the members of local Muktyjoddha Command Council where he requested them to come forward with helping for the flood-hit people. —Star photo.

Robbery in night coaches increases alarmingly

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 30: Highway robbery in night coaches on different routes of south-western zone has increased alarmingly following the failure of police to control the situation in recent times.

There were two casualties of night coach passengers with twelve cases of stabbing including loss of properties worth lakhs of taka by organised gang of robbers during the current month.

According to informations, robberies are being committed continuously. Robbers, accompany the bonafide passengers travelling in night coach right from starting point. They over-ride coach driver, conductor and looted away valuables of passengers with stabbing when it reaches within their range. Dacoities are committed in night coach by creating road barricade. According to passengers of night coach, dacoity is committed by persons, picked-up by driver and conductor breaking journey on road by keeping the coach staff hostage. They have accused confluence coach staff with dacoits in such occurrence.

What is surprising is that most of these happenings occur in absence of police.

When contacted, police superintendent, Jessore, told this correspondent that 60 to 62 per cent of such occurrence can easily be avoided if night coach driver's cabin is separated by grill to make it inaccessible

coach occupants. It may lost Taka four to five thousand maximum. But coach owners are unwilling to do so despite repeated reminders. He also said that it can be checked if Ansars are deployed for protection of night coach. But the coach owners are not coming forward to engage them. Previously Ansars were engaged in night coach.

He was not categorical about adverse attitude of coach owners at the backdrop of prevailing situation. He also suggested that it could be reduced if no night coach would stop on the way and pick-up passengers from there.

He however, told that authority has already taken measures to step up police patrol on highway more vigilantly. He sought active cooperation of all concerned to combat the situation.

It can be mentioned here that the local unit of Bangladesh Paribahan Samik Somity took-up a programme to observe abstention from work for twentyfour hours from July 25 this month to protest police failure to stop the highway robbery following growing insecurity of night coach passengers and staff. Later, it was called off.

Night coach passengers and staff are now in greater suspense. The plying of night coach may be stopped at any moment if situation is not improved.

BSS adds: The construction work of a two storied office bhaban and two sheds of Benapol Port under Mongla Port Authority (MPA) being built at a cost of over Taka one crore is going on in full-swing.

State Minister for Shipping Harun-Al-Rashid visited the Benapol Port on Wednesday to see the progress of the work. He went round the port area and enquired about the maintenance of cargoes there, a PID handout said.

Later at a meeting with the officials of MPA and other concerned persons the state minister said, a comprehensive plan was being taken up to develop Benapol Port. The plan includes construction of godowns, sheds, transshipment yards, rest house and houses for officials.

The state minister was informed that Benapol Port earned about Taka 5 crore 7 lakh 70 thousand during the last financial year (1992-93) by handling about 3 lakh 52 thousand five hundred metric tons of cargoes.

He stressed the need for expeditious movement and proper maintenance of cargoes. All-out-efforts would be made to check wastage of cargoes, pilferage and ensure proper security in the port, he said.

Among others, Shipping Secretary Walut Islam, Chairman of MPA Rezuanul Hoque and Customs Collector Abul Kashem were present.

Student held for fraud

RAJBARI, July 30: A student of the Dhamrai College in Manikganj was arrested at Pangsha when he tried to cheat some students who appeared in BA examinations held this year, with the promise of additional marks, reports UNB.

Son of a teacher and examiner Sanowar carried photo copies of answer scripts of Political Science Paper III of Razia Khatun Roll 10088 and Abdul Latif Roll 10125. He demanded of them Tk 10,000 for good marks.

His father Abdul Karim is a teacher of the Kaliakoir Degree College.

Police said Sanowar came to Pangsha on July 18 with photocopied answer scripts and searched out the examinees. When he was looking for other examinees to make offers of higher marks in exchange of money, Sanowar was handed over to thana.

According to Pangsha thana, Sanowar confessed that he had stolen the answer scripts from his father's secret custody and made photo copies.

Sanowar confessed his guilt, police said. A case has been filed in this connection and further investigation was continuing.

UP chairman held on charge of smuggling

COX'S BAZAR, July 30: Teknaf Sadar Union Parishad Chairman Ejahar Mia alias Company, arrested on charge of smuggling, was set to Cox's Bazar Sub-jail on Thursday and placed under 120 days detention under, the Special Powers Act, reports UNB.

Company was picked up by police from Teknaf Bazar at about 10:30 Wednesday night for his alleged involvement in cross-border trading. Police also raided a number of dens of smugglers in Cox's Bazar after midnight Wednesday, but failed to net any.

Also a former Upazila Chairman elected with Jatiya Party ticket, the accused was brought to the district headquarters midnight Wednesday after his arrest.

Police said Company, now said to be a local BNP leader, had business links with the Burmese national, Zahir Ahmed alias Bozee, arrested on June 30 on charge of cross-border trading. Bozee is now in Dhaka Central Jail.

16 injured in road accident

TANGAIL, July 30: Sixteen persons including the driver of a mini-bus were injured in a road accident that occurred on Sunday near Karatta petrol pump on Dhaka-Tangail highway, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when a coach and a mini-bus met a head on collision the minibus driver and its passengers were injured.

12 passengers hurt as students attack bus at Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, July 30: Twelve passengers were injured when students attacked a BRTC bus at the town on Monday morning.

Students of different educational institutions brought out a procession on Monday protesting the enhancement of their tuition fees.

They attacked a Barisal bound BRTC bus (Dhaka Chs 8451) from Khulna in front of Sarnakal School. The bus was badly damaged.

5,80,500 bales of jute likely to be produced

BARISAL, July 30: About 5,80,500 bales of jute will be produced in eleven southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, a total of 59,850 hectares of land was brought under jute cultivation in these districts this year.

A total of 74,994 kilograms of jute seeds were supplied to the farmers for successful implementation of the programme.

Of the total, 15,423 bales of jute will be produced in 1,560 hectares in Barisal district, 1,251 bales in 129 hectares in Pirojpur, 397 bales in 41 hectares in Jhalakati, 582 bales in 60 hectares in Patuakhali, 485 bales in 50 hectares in Barguna, 1,940 bales in 200 hectares in Bhola, 2,03,486 bales in 20,978 hectares in Faridpur, 1,24,160 bales in 12,800 hectares in Madaripur, 63,661 bales in 6,563 hectares in Gopalganj, 1,00,909 bales in

10,403 hectares in Rajbari and 68,152 bales in 7,026 hectares in Shariatpur districts, the source said.

Another report says: Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education has been implementing 61 projects in four southern districts of Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola and Pirojpur under Barisal education circle.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned Taka 1,41,30,000 for implementation of these projects in 1992-93 fiscal year.

Works on these projects are going on in full swing and are expected to be completed by August next. The works include repair and re-construction of government primary schools in the districts, the source said.

Of the total, 28 projects are being implemented in Barisal district, nine projects in Jhalakati, 15 projects in Bhola and 13 projects in Pirojpur districts.

Lightning kills seven in Sylhet last week

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 30: Seven persons were killed by lightning in different areas of greater Sylhet region during the last one week.

According to reports, a 18-year-old youngman was struck by lightning at village Janaura under Srimongal thana while he was grazing cows in the field. The two cows were also struck by lightning in the same incident. On the same day, a labourer of the Rajghat Tea Garden named Nishu Madraji, (30), was also struck by lightning while three others were injured.

One Alauddin (32), of village Prathari Mohalla under Banachang thana of Habiganj district was struck by lightning while he was fishing in a nearby haor on Tuesday afternoon last.

Jamaluddin (26), son of one Azizur Rahman of village Jamshedpur of Rampasha union under Biswanath thana of Sylhet district was struck by lightning at baro haor near his village home while fishing on Monday noon last.

One Haris Ali (35), of village Bhatta under Khadimpura union of Sylhet sadar thana was struck by lightning on Saturday last. Another victim

Yadullah (20), son of Iskandar of village Digorbhraman under Aushkandi union of Nabiganj thana of Habiganj district was struck by lightning while he was fishing in the river Kushiara near their village house.

Tanjab Ali (22), was killed by lightning at Natunbasi area of Sherpur while he was returning home.

The police of Golapganj thana under Sylhet district recovered a pipegun and one live cartridge from the shop at Hetimganj bazar recently.

On getting secret informations, a police team went to the shop of one Abdul Muttalib alias Gedal and caught one Helal, an employee of the shop.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Golapganj thana.

Businessman shot dead

KHULNA, July 30: A businessman was shot dead allegedly by the outlawed Sarbaha Party men at village Rangpur in Dumuria thana early on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said Binash Chandra Sarker, 40, died instantly when gunmen fired on him while he was asleep along with his 22-year-old son Polash at Kalbiri School premises.

Many local people sleep in the school premises at a hot night.

Sarker was shot in his head at about 2 last night.

A case has been lodged with Dumuria police.

Cooperators urged to strengthen movement

KHULNA, July 30: Khulna City Corporation Mayor Shaikh Tahyabur Rahman on Thursday called upon the cooperators to strengthen cooperative movement in the country for poverty alleviation, reports UNB.

He was addressing a function arranged for distributing awards among the cooperatives of Khulna and Barisal divisions.

Presided over by Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Muttalib, the function was addressed, among others, by Bangladesh National Cooperative Union Chairman Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, and Azizul Huq Bhuiyan.

The Mayor said the present government was providing necessary support to develop socio-economic condition of the poor people and urged the cooperators to strengthen the movement.

Salahuddin Ahmed said cooperative is the weapon for development in developing countries and called upon all to spread the movement to villages.

The National Cooperative Award was distributed among 38 cooperative institutions and people of Khulna division and 24 in Barisal division.

Mongla customs earns Tk 149.62 cr

BSS adds: Mongla customs earned Tk 149.62 crore as customs duty on import goods and Tk 120.80 crore as VAT during 1992-93 financial year, customs sources said.

Customs duty during the previous corresponding year was Tk 213.81 crore while VAT was Tk 96.37 crore. The fall was attributed to reduction of rates of customs duty.

BDR men asked to intensify anti-smuggling drive

COMILLA, July 30: Director General of Bangladesh Rifles, Major General Anwar Hossain on Thursday urged the members of BDR to intensify anti-smuggling drive for attaining self-reliant economy, reports BSS.

He was addressing the officers, JCOs and other ranks at Durbar while visiting the Comilla Sector on Thursday afternoon.

Expressing his satisfaction at the progress of the anti-smuggling drive of the Comilla sector, the BDR chief called upon them to discharge their duties with devotion and sincerity.

He urged the members of BDR to maintain discipline, lead an honest life and offer prayers five times a day. He also urged them to maintain a planned family and plant five saplings each during the vacation or leisure time.

Earlier, the BDR Director General planted a Krishnachura sapling at the office premises of

29 Rifle Battalion and visited one border out post in afternoon.

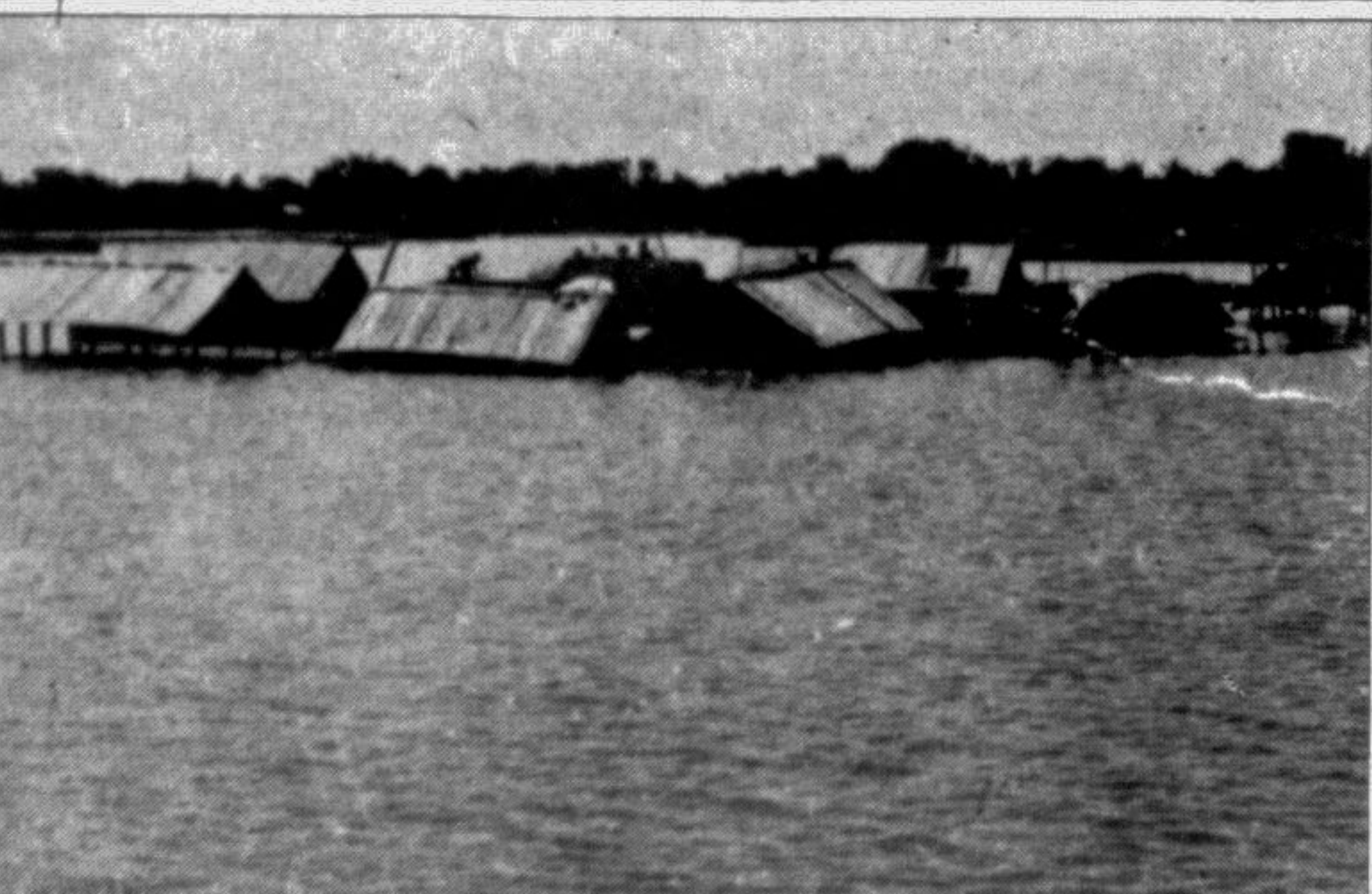
A UNB report says: A gang of robbers swooped on a night coach at Hasanpur on Comilla-Kachua road and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 30,000 on Sunday. Police said after committing dacoity, the gang stopped a Comilla-bound bus near Hasanpur and made their escape.

Another report adds: Two dacoities were committed in two villages of Kachua thana on July 21.

Villagers said a gang of dacoits stormed the house of Nasiruddin Bhuiyan of Jharikhola village and decimated with cash and valuables worth about Tk 80,000.

They said in the same night dacoits also swooped on the house of Shamsul Huda Master of Joynagar village and robbed cash and valuables worth about Tk 40,000.

Separate cases have been filed.



SIRAJGONJ: An inundated house at village Patgram in Kazipur thana during the flood. —Star photo

Private dairy farm owners get incentive to raise milk output

GAZIPUR, July 30: State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan distributed cross cheques amounting to Taka 7.88 lakh to 18 private livestock firm owners as incentive here recently, reports BSS.

They are out of the 40 private livestock firm owners who registered their names with the district livestock office at Gazipur, an official handout said.

The State Minister said that the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was firm to give incentive to the private livestock firm owners to help grow more dairy farms at private level so that the country could achieve self-sufficiency in milk production within shortest possible time.

He said, this scheme will not only help grow our milk production but will also remove poverty from the rural areas.

Further, the programme will help curtail import of powdered milk of Tk 300 to 400 crore an-

nually, he added.

In this context the State Minister referred to allocation of Tk 120 crore to poverty alleviation scheme from the budget allocation of the current fiscal year, the State Minister said that incentive to dairy firm owners will go a long way in achieving the objective of poverty alleviation programme of the government.

Later, the State Minister presided over the first review meeting of Gazipur District Compulsory Primary Education Programme at the conference room of Gazipur district administration.

The meeting was informed that 92 per cent children of the age group from 6 to 10 years have so far been admitted to primary schools and adequate measures have been taken to check the dropout.

The State Minister in his address urged all concerned to work with sincerity and dedication to make the programme a

complete success and as such he called upon all to ensure bringing of per cent school going children to primary schools within shortest possible time. In this context, he referred to government pilot programme of food for education and directed all concerned to motivate poor parents to avail of this opportunity in sending their children to schools.

Jamalpur Deputy Commissioner of the district handed over 12 cheques amounting to Tk 3.70 lakh to the owners of 12 dairy farms on Tuesday.

The DC transferred the cheques at a simple ceremony and urged the farm owners to work hard to help make the country self-reliant in milk output.

The function was jointly organised by the District Implementation Committee of Incentive Bonus for the private dairy farms and the District Livestock Department.