

District roundup

MAJDEE COURT

BRTC bus depot in poor shape

Aug 23: Local BRTC bus depot at Sonapur of the district has been lying in deplorable condition for quite a long time, reports UNB.

There is lack of sufficient staff for smooth functioning of the depot, causing harm to the public property.

There are only six buses out of 23 at the depot, running in different routes including the Majde Court-Chittagong-Khagrachhari-Choumuhani routes.

The rest of the 17 buses, which went out of order long ago, have been kept under the open sky in the absence of shelter houses, causing gradual damages to the vehicles.

Repair work is also badly hampered as there is no mechanic at the depot to look into damages of vehicles. The welding machine has also gone out of order, local people alleged.

Local people urged the concerned authority to take necessary steps for repair of the vehicles immediately.

FARIDPUR

Fisheries Fortnight '93 concludes

Aug 23: The prize-giving and concluding ceremony of the National Fisheries Fortnight '93 in the district was held here at DC's Conference Room on Sunday, reports UNB.

Presided over by District Fisheries Officer Mahbulul Haq, it was attended by Deputy Commissioner K M Nurul Huda as chief guest.

Four pisciculturists were awarded prizes for their contribution in fish production and expansion of fish farming in the district.

The awardees are Khagendra Nath Sarkar, Abdul Motaleb Fakir, Khandakar Habib Rabbani and David Rupak Shah.

The meeting reviewed the progress achieved during the fortnight which began on August 1 and discussed pros and cons of the policies for increased fish production in the district.

It was addressed by, among others, ADC (General) Ali Akbar Choudhury, Amir Hossain of 3rd Fisheries Project, Principal of Fisheries Training and Extension Centre Wahiduddin Nabi, TNO Ahmedur Rahim and pisciculturists Khagendra Nath Sarkar and David Rupak Shah.

Aug 23: The first publication ceremony of a half-weekly newspaper 'Janasanket' was held here on Monday, reports UNB.

The function was inaugurated by the founder president of the Gaibandha Press Club Nirmalendu Barman with the Editor of the newspaper Dipak Kumar Paul in the chair.

It was also addressed by Daily Sandhan Editor Mashiur Rahman Khan, Acting Editor of the Daily Bangladesh Ahsanullah Khan, Editor of the Weekly Gana Utaran Ruhul Haque Mannu and local leaders of different political parties and socio-cultural organisations.

The speakers stressing on the need of objective journalism, urged the newsmen to ventilate the grievances of the people without fear or favour.

They said freedom of press has been ensured in the present democratic set up and hence it is the responsibility of the journalists to grow consciousness among the people to establish a society free from exploitation.

CHANDPUR

Fertilizer dealers workshop held

Aug 23: A day long fertilizer dealers training and workshop was held at the rotary bhavan on Tuesday under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, International Fertilizer Development Corporation (IFDC) and the US-AID, reports BSS.

About two hundred fertilizer dealers and relevant persons participated in the programme which was addressed among others by M A Masud Bhuyan of Rahman Corporation, Dr Thomas P Thomson, Consultant, IFDC, Mattur Rahman, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, A H M Obaidul Bari, Adviser IFDC, Nizamuddin Ahmed of the US-AID and Tushar Kanti Barua, Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur.

Speakers discussed the role of the fertilizer dealers under the free market economy, fertilizer situation after the withdrawal of subsidy, quality control and availability of the fertilizers during the lean and peak seasons.

FENI

3 arrested for toll collection

Aug 23: Three alleged terrorists were arrested for collecting tolls after taking possession of Mahipal Bus Stand in the town, police said recently, reports UNB.

Police on the basis of the complaints from the local people swooped on the area on August 9 and arrested Mir Ahmed of village Sharshadi, Shahidullah of village Moddham Choripur and Amanullah of village Panchnagachhia — all the villages are under sadar thana.

It may be mentioned here that a man identified as Otauddin of village Mahipal was killed and five others were wounded in the bomb attack by the terrorists on the same spot on August 7.

The seriously injured Katchi was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical. Four others were being treated in Feni sadar hospital.

MEHERPUR

One hacked to death

Aug 23: A man was hacked to death in Sadar thana on Monday, police said, says UNB.

Family sources said Azad Mollah (47) of Mohakhali village was called out by some miscreants on the night at about 11:00 am and cut his throat with a ramdao.

The reason behind the killing could not be known.

A case was filed with the police in this connection.

KUSHITIA

Kidnapped girl recovered

Aug 23: Shakila Khatoun Nupur, a student of class eight of government girls school, who was kidnapped by a gang of four eve-teasers was recovered from Faruk Mansion at Mongolbaria Bazar in the outskirts of the town immediately after the incident on Monday, says BSS.

Police arrested the four and sent them to court in the afternoon the magistrate handed over the girl to her father, Zahidul Islam of Thanapara, and the four to jail.

Another report says: The law enforcing agency personal recovered twenty thousand kgs of Indian salt from Bheramara char area recently.

The agency source said that the value of the salt was about Taka two lakh. The goods has been deposited with the Bheramara customs godown.

GAIBANDHA

Stress on objective journalism

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CHITTAGONG

Early solution to Bosnian crisis demanded

Aug 23: Chittagong city unit of Bangladesh Nezam-e-Islam party Friday brought out a procession in protest against massive killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and delay in finding a solution to the crisis, a party press release said, reports BSS.

The procession passed through different roads of the city and ended at the northern gate of Shahi Jame Masjid at Andarkilla.

A rally was also held in this connection with the City Unit President Muti Izharul Islam in the chair.

Maulana M A Sabur Islamabad, Abidur Rahman, Abdullah Meah and Mozharul Kader addressed the rally. They called upon the OIC to take effective steps for early solution of Bosnian crisis.

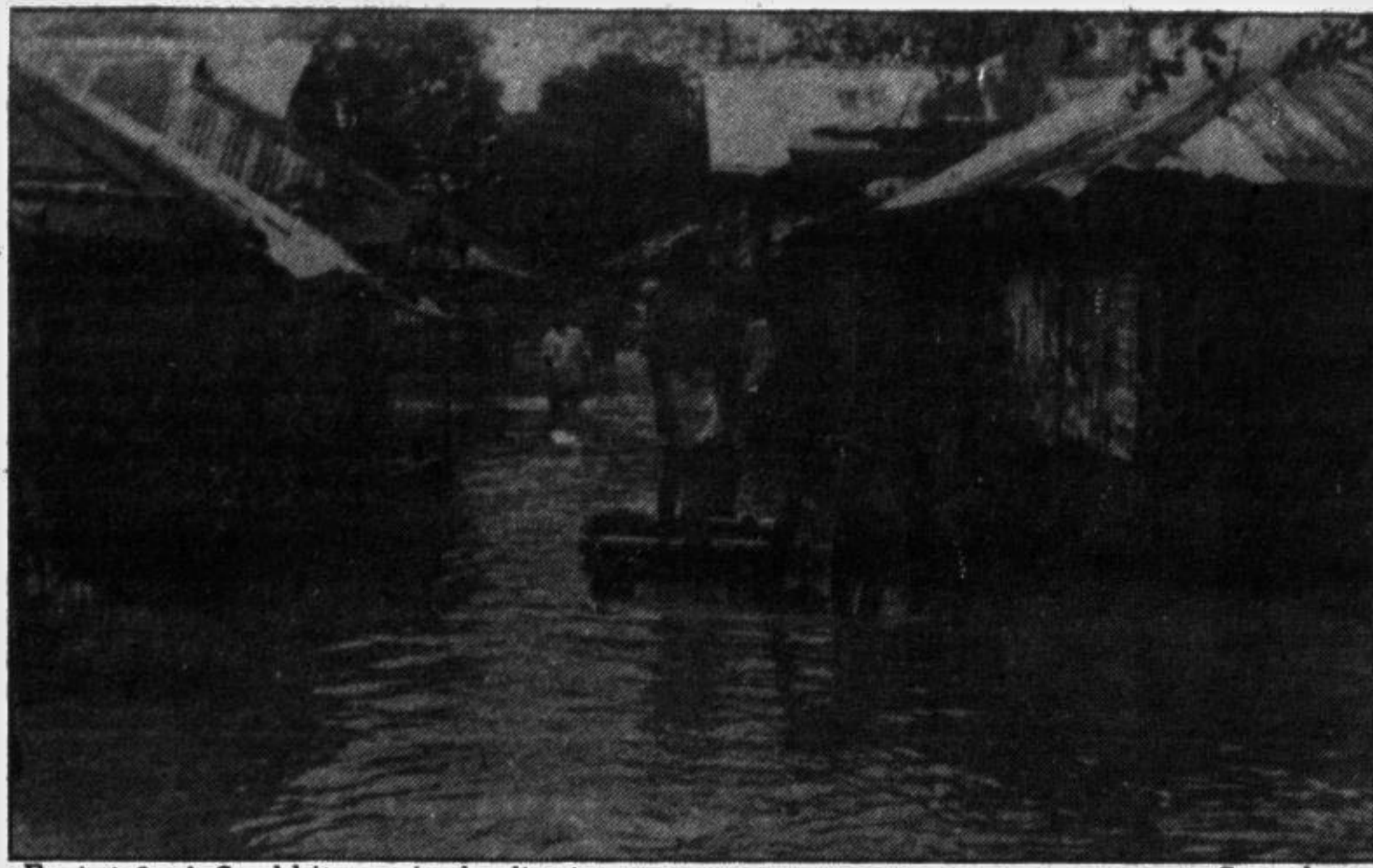
KHULNA

Workshop on family planning

Aug 23: A two-day workshop on family planning in connection with the fourth anniversary of the mother and child care programme of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) concluded here on Thursday, reports BSS.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Kazi Reazul Haq. It was presided over by Principal Mazharul Hannan, assistant secretary general of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, and addressed among others by Advocate Piroz Ahmed.

The deputy commissioner asked the youths to work for keeping growth of population within reasonable level. He lauded the FPAB for its mother and child care programme.



Feni: A fresh flood-hit area in the district.

—Star photo

Dairy farm owners need marketing facilities

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Aug 23: The local owners are gradually losing their interest in dairy farming as they are not getting fair prices of milk and its derivatives.

Many small and medium dairy farms were set up in six thanas of the district including Gurudaspur, Baraigram and Natore sadar.

It can be mentioned here that some government and non-government organisations have encouraged the entrepreneur in this regard.

There are two to 10 cow of better species at each dairy farms.

According to official source, there are 58 dairy farms which have got their registration.

Among the 58 dairy farms, about 40 farms have at least five to ten cows of its own. These cows are of better species and said to give at least five kilograms of milk a day the sources added.

A survey report conducted by Natore line-stock office said, about 6.50 thousand liters of

milk are produced in these farms at Gurudaspur, Baraigram and sadar thanas of Natore district everyday. About two thousand liters of milk are used in private purposes.

The rest of the 4.50 thousand liters of milk are brought in different markets for sale.

But, there seems to be little demand for these huge quantity of milk at the local markets. As a result, the prices of pure milk here are very steady and small.

It is gathered that pure milk are available at between Taka seven and Taka 10 at the local markets.

While talking to this correspondent, District Live-stock Officer, Md Intaj Ali pointed out that if the 'Milk Vita' company set up a purchasing centre at Natore sadar or Banpara area, the proper value of milk could be ensured.

Intaj Ali further disclosed that the purchased milk could be also easily transported to Milk-Vita centre at Baghabari Ghat through highway communications. Necessary communi-

cations with Milk-Vita authority are going on, he added. Besides, small traders can purchase considerable amount of milk for supplying to Dhaka centres or Baghabari Ghat centre. This can contribute in raising the rate of milk at the local markets, another source expressed.

The government should take appropriate steps immediately to ensure proper value of milk at the local markets as well as to encourage the entrepreneurs here for setting up dairy farms in Natore.

According to official sources government has so far sanctioned about Taka nine lakh 37 thousand 500 for 26 dairy farm owners in Natore under the programme of government grant to encourage the dairy farm owners in non-government sectors of the country recently.

According to the programme, a dairy farm which received, registration a year before, having five to 10 cows of better species is eligible for the government grant.

Divorce on increase in rural areas

BARGUNA, Aug 23: The number of divorce in the rural areas has assumed an alarming proportion, reports UNB.

More than 20,000 marriages broke up during the last five years in six thanas of the district, according to a survey report conducted by a non-government organisation.

According to the report, the primary causes of divorce have been identified as dowry, polygamy and immoral activities.

Poor women are the worst

victims. Due to non-registration of their marriages, they are not getting legal protection from the harassment and persecution of their husbands.

Local elite feel that if their marriages were registered, they could approach the court either to prevent the divorce or to obtain compensation from their husbands.

Moreover, it is alleged that the marriage registrars in the remote areas demand higher fees which the poor guardians are unable to pay.

Despite legal restrictions, many men take more than one wives in far flung areas without the written permission of the first wife.

Another report says: A large number of distressed women are pouring in the district town and its surroundings in search of employment, food and relief materials.

Most of them are passing their days in great hardships due to lack of employment opportunities while some have turned to beggars.

Help remove corruption, anarchism from society

CHAPAINAWABOANJ, Aug 23: Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia urged the workers of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal (BNP) to put in their best efforts in materialising the dreams of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and the spirit of liberation war in establishing the fundamental rights of the common people and a society free from corruption and anarchism, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the biennial conferences of Chapainawabganj district BNP council held here recently.

The conference was addressed, among other, by Barrister Aminul Haq, State Minister for Establishment, Prof

Shahjahan Mia MP, Whip of the Jatiya Singsad, Azizul Haq Molla MP, Rezaul Haq Sarkar Rana, BNP Divisional Organising Secretary and the local BNP leaders.

The minister said BNP government was committed to implement the 19-point programme of Shaheed Zia to ensure the economic emancipation of the downtrodden people.

The minister said the government of Begum Khaleda Zia believed in politics of production and not in politics of destruction. He urged the workers to help the government in attaining self-sufficiency in food and make the country a prosperous one.

Notes From Kushtia

KUSHITIA, Aug 23: Vice Chancellor of Islamic University Prof Abdul Hamid, emphasised the need for doing research work to solve economic problems of the country, reports UNB.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Managing interest-free Economy' held at the university campus on Monday.

Assistant Professor of Nem Orance University in the United States Dr S Kabir Hasan presented the key-noted paper at the seminar which was presided over by Chairman of the Department of Management Dr Mosharraf Hossain.

Apart from teaching, the Vice Chancellor urged teachers to involve in research work to manage economic crisis.

He said, the work of teachers would provide the students as well as policy makers a sense of direction in their thinking.

The seminar was addressed by, among others, Dr Saiful Islam, Dr ANM Rezaul Karim, Dr AHM Yahyur Rahman and Abul Kalam Azad.

Drug addiction increasing

Drug addiction among the youths is increasing in all six thanas of the district.

Alcohol, opium, ganjas and rectified spirit are being sold openly in pharmacy, grocery and vendors shops in these areas.

Despite restrictions, pharmacies are also selling morphin, sedaxin, phenisidyl syrup and relaxin or unocin tablets, to the addicts.

It is alleged that a well-organised gang is engaged in smuggling these drugs from India through different border points in greater Kushtia district.

The drug addicted young people are often engaged in different types of crimes including hijacking, dacoity and snatching.

Road construction going on

Construction work on Kushtia-Pabna road via Sheldaidh-Kuthbari has been started at the cost of Taka 42 lakh.

Length of this road from Sheldaidh-Kuthbari to Pabna is six km near Vocational Training Institute point while from Kushtia to Kuthbari its length is 12 km.

After completion, the construction of the road only two hours will be required to reach Pabna from Kushtia via Paksey after crossing two farries on rivers Gorai and Padma. Now it takes three hours time.

The communication between Pabna and Kushtia will be more easy if bridges on the rivers are constructed by the concerned authorities, local elite said.

Poverty deprives poor pry students of education

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Aug 23: The number of primary school going children is decreasing in the remote areas of the district due to poverty.

A large number of children between the age 8 to 12 years are engaged in different petty jobs instead of going to schools to earn their livelihood.

The poverty-stricken farmers engage their kids income generating works like cattle grazings rickshaws pulling and hotel boys. The children are compelled to take up these odd jobs at poor remuneration.

Most of the marginal or landless farmers in the district have four or more children and are facing financial crisis. As a result, they cannot afford educational expenses of their children. Finding no other alternatives, they encourage their children to take up any job.

During the harvesting season a large number of farm labourers along with their kids migrate to other districts in search of work. As a result, the primary schools in remote areas of the district have been facing

acute shortage of students.

Another report says: Power failure has become a regular feature at the town over the last few days.

Power supply goes off at least six to eight times a day and resumes after an interval of one to two hours.

The frequency of power failure reaches the climax at noon hampering production of the local industries greatly. The local mills, factories, shops and press owners have been suffering much due to irregular power supply.

If the situation continues, production in mills and factories will decrease abnormally.

Businessmen of the town urged the authorities to take steps to ensure smooth supply of electricity.

Dairy, poultry farm owner's executives

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 23: A meeting of dairy and poultry farm owners was held at Shahmostafa Road recently.

President of Moulvibazar Dairy Farm Owners Association, Shafiguatal Wahed presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed on various issues and problems of dairy and Poultry farms in Moulvibazar district.

TV relay station at Patuakhali this year

BARISAL, Aug 23: Government has sanctioned Taka 64.90 lakh to construct the television relay station at Patuakhali district headquarters during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, government has acquired 1.50 acres of land near sadar hospital in the last fiscal year for the implementation of this project.

Meanwhile, soil test and other preliminary engineering works on this project have been completed, the source said.

The project will include the construction of television relay building, pump house, construction of 120-metre tower, and 10 horse-power turbing motor pump.

Recovering from floods—story of two thanas

There was never a flood like this here before" told one Ajmatullah Kabira (85) who sat amid the ruins of his village in Char Bishnapur. Other villages throughout Nageswari and Bhurungamari thanas in northern Kurigram showed similar drastic evidence of a fierce flood which hit the area with force on July, 21 and 22.

The water of Dudkumar River rose too high and devastated its surrounding areas with huge casualties. Elsewhere in Kurigram, residents living near other major rivers — the Brahmaputra, Testa and Dharla — are used to periodic inundation. Until now, the Dudkumar has spared its human neighbours from catastrophe which left them cruelly unprepared on this occasion.

Although the floodwaters receded after only 24 hours, their initial ferocity proved disastrous. One senior staff of Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) who helped evacuate and provide relief to flood victims witnessed damage which exceeded many previous records.

Fifty-three bridges in the two thanas of Nageswari and Bhurungamari and over 400 culverts have been destroyed. These may take years to re-

place, seriously impairing communication and development in this remote area.

Human suffering has been considerable. The death toll has been high and at least 2,000 families have been left homeless. In Kutichar village in Nageswari, 68 of the 99 families has lost their homes. Living in the temporary shelters, they bleakly stared at the ruins of

their homes, damaged of fierce flood waters. In some places, their villages look like deserts as trees and crops have been flattened and covered by river sand. All that remains of a new non-formal primary school

Boat-owners were the only beneficiaries from the disaster, helping with evacuation, distribution of relief and even, in some cases, using their own meagre funds to help the worst-affected.

Each year, flood claims more victims throughout Bangladesh. This year, as every year, Kurigram district was again a victim but the worst casualties were those people relatively unprepared. Now, though the shock and damage have subsided, their recovery will be a long and arduous task.

The RDRS monitoring the situation and trying to return to its normal development work as far as possible. An emergency programme of work creation including ground-raising against future flooding is being planned to provide some income to the worst affected. At least 500 destitute families will receive help with housing materials. Yet circumstances remain difficult — flood victims are in need, while the threat of renewed flooding continues until the monsoon rains end in September.

Huddled in a tent with her two children on Char Damalgam, Rahima sums up the catastrophe that has struck these remote areas. "We thank God we survived that terrible night of the flood but now we do not know how we will survive now — our crops are destroyed and our fields are covered with sand".

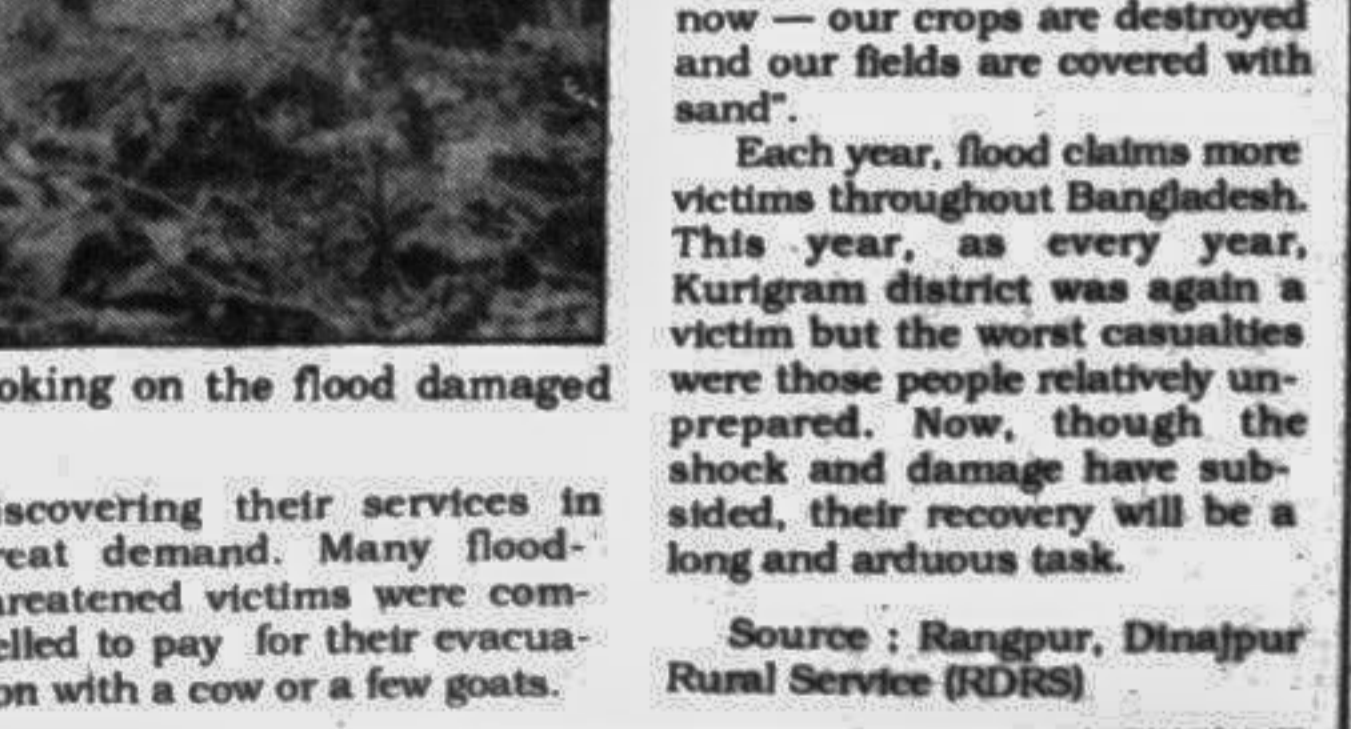
Source: Rangpur, Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)

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Source: Rangpur, Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)



A marginal farmer of Char Luchni in Nageswari thana is looking on the flood damaged house.



The flood victims of Jhunker Char have taken shelter on Jatrapur Embankment in Kurigram.

Transplanted aman cultivation

An ambitious programme has been taken up to bring 7.62 lakh hectares of land under transplanted aman farming in 10 districts of Khulna division during the current season.

Official sources said, of them, 45,000 hectares of land have been taken up in Kushtia, 40,000 hectares in Chuadanga, 14,000 hectares in Meherpur, 77,000 hectares in Jhenaidah, 31,000 hectares in Magura, 12,000 hectares in Narail, 1.77 lakh hectares in Jessore, 1.21 lakh hectares in Khulna, 1.35 lakh hectares in Satkhira and 1.10 lakh hectares in Bagerhat districts.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation has distributed high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers and pesticides among the farmers at fair prices to make the programme a success.

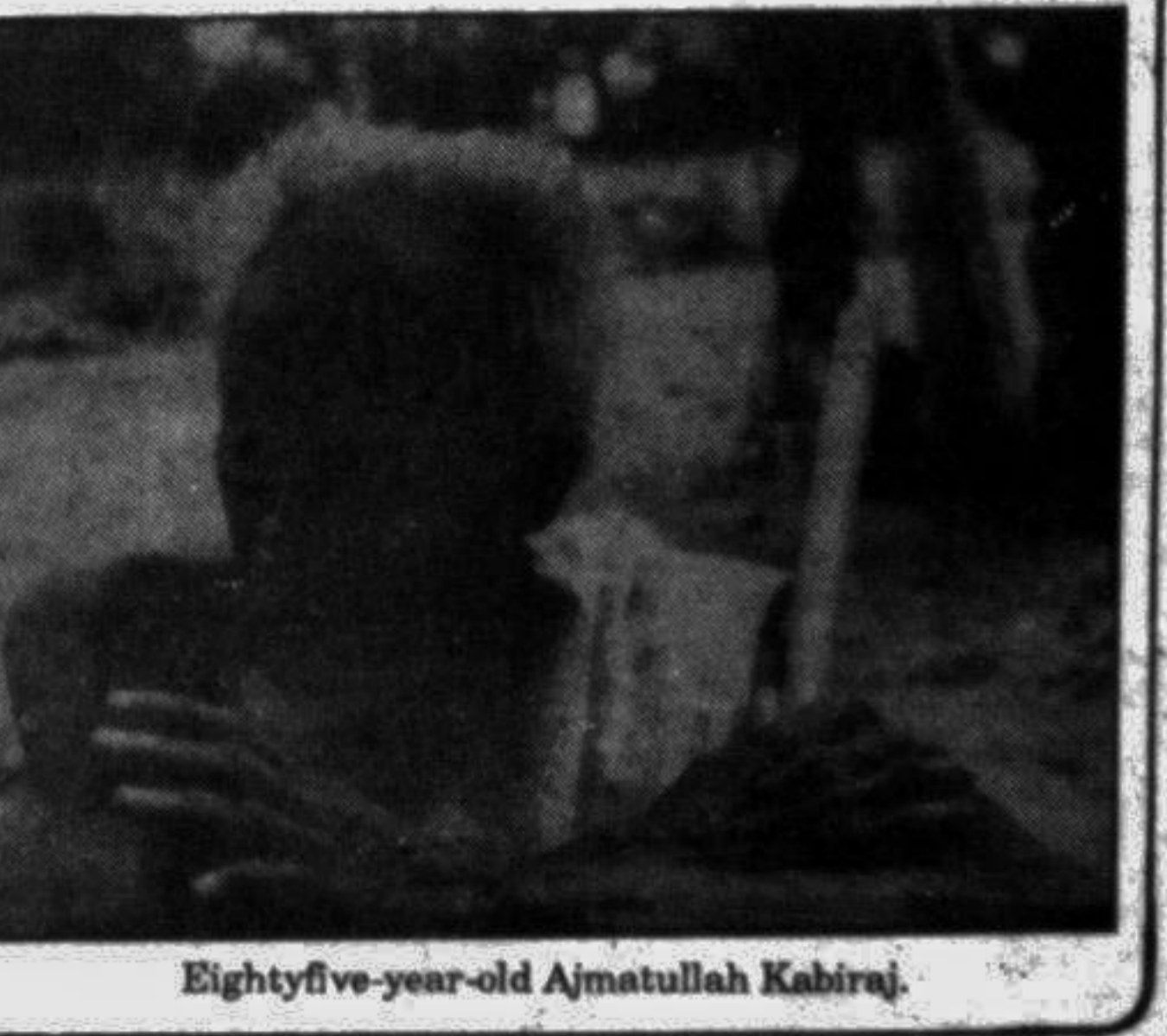
According to official sources, a number of demonstration plots have been set up to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

96.91 p.c pass SSC exam from BCIC schools

A total of 1134 students of 14 schools run by BCIC appeared at the SSC Examination held in 1993 under the four Education Boards, says a Press release.

Out of them, 274 obtained star marks, 961 were placed in the 1st division, 125 passed in the 2nd division and 09 came out in the third division. Eight schools namely, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer School, BCIC Science College, TSP Complex School, Chhatak Cement Factory School, Zia Fertilizer College, Chittagong Chemical Complex School, Khulna Newsprint Mill School, Polash Urea Fertilizer School achieved hundred per cent success and the average percentage of pass of the 14 schools in 96.91 per cent.

The average percentage of pass in the Dhaka, Comilla, Jessore and Rajshahi Boards are 98.11 per cent, 61.83 per cent, 63.35 per cent and 60.78 per cent respectively.



Eighty-five-year-old Ajmatullah Kabira.