

## District roundup

### NARAYANGANJ

#### Torrential rains cripple public life

Aug 26: Torrential rains crippled public life in the port town Monday, reports UNB.

Low-lying areas of the town went under waist-deep water as heavy downpour triggered by active low continued for nine hours since early morning.

Water entered the shops and houses and submerged different areas of the town including Laxminarayan Akhra, Palpara, Nandipara, Dewhbog, Baburati, Mazrati, Bhuyanpara, Bepari-para, Shilalakhka, Amlapara, Chashara, Masuapar and Kahanpur.

Traffic was disrupted as the main roads in the town were submerged. The roads which went up to waist-deep water are Bangabandhu road, Shurawardy road, SM Male road, College road and Nitaiganj road.

All the shops and markets remained shuttered due to the incessant rain which started at 6.30 am and continued till 3.30 pm. Some adjoining areas of the town including Kashipur, Fatullah, Cognagar, Bandar, Sonargaon and parts of Aradhajar area were inundated by rain water.

### BARISAL

#### Construction of 20 bridges completed

Aug 26: Local Government Engineering Department completed 20 bridge projects at a cost of Taka 37,08,518 in Barisal district during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

The project covered repair and reconstruction of bridge in various thanas of the district. Besides, reconstruction and repair work on another nine projects at a cost of Taka 28,86,917 have been progressing.

### TANGAIL

#### 'No alternative to education'

Aug 26: State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan has said that the present government has given the education sector topmost priority, reports BSS.

With that end in view it had allotted highest budget allocation in education sector he added.

He said the government has also taken up a plan to establish primary schools in villages of the country under compulsory primary education programme.

The state minister was addressing a public meeting at Ghatail Kamalpara Primary School premises in Tangail on the occasion of inauguration of the new building of the school recently.

He said, there is no alternative to education for leading the national towards prosperity. "A person cannot realise his right without education", he added. The state minister put emphasis on imparting technical education to the students.

### GAIBANDHA

#### 3 commit suicide, one electrocuted

Aug 26: A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Chackmudpur village of Sadar thana in the district on Sunday night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Sufiya Khatun (40), wife of Khoka Miah of the village.

Sufiya Khatun, mother of five children, took her life by hanging herself from the roof of her husband's house.

Family sources said she committed suicide as a sequel to family feuds. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the local police.

Another message from Satkhira adds: One Kohinor (14) of Balidanga and another woman wife of Abdul Hamid of Beharinagar in sadar thana allegedly committed suicide recently by taking endrin.

Family sources said they committed suicide following family feuds. The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy and two separate unnatural death cases were filed with the police.

In another incident a man was electrocuted at Kalkhali village in Sadar thana on Sunday evening while working in a construction site.

The dead, identified as Abdus Satter (32), a day labourer was electrocuted when he touched a live electric wire.

### KUSHIA

#### Eid-E-Miladun Nabi to be observed

Aug 26: A 35 member committee was formed here to observe the Eid-E-Miladun Nabi in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The committee was formed in a meeting held at the chamber of the Deputy Commissioner recently with the Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

The meeting was attended among others by Najmus Selhin, Principal Kushtia Islamia College, Maulana Yakub Ali, Imam of Borojane Mosque and Md Sahamsur Rahman, Principal Kushtia Polytechnic Institute.

### NAOGAON

#### 2 killed, 12 wounded in gun battle

Aug 26: Two people were killed and 12 others wounded in a gun battle between the rival groups of villagers in Niamatpur thana of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said the gun battle ensued over the possession of a disputed land killing Zillur Rahman (26) and Mozaharul Islam (33) on the spot.

The injured were admitted to local hospital. Police arrested a man with a gun. A case has been filed with the local police.



FISHING DURING RAINY SEASON: A group of villagers is fishing in a field so that maximum number can be caught — Photo by A.K.M Mohsin

### Fresh flood in Pabna, Manikganj, Hatiya

## Hundreds of people marooned, crops on acres of land damaged

PABNA, Aug 26: The overall flood situation in six thanas of the district further deteriorated due to incessant rainfall and rise of water level in the rivers Jamuna and Padma in last 24 hours, officials said, reports UNB.

A minor boy drowned and some 200 people of 35 families of eight villages in Bera thana of the district were rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Jamuna during the period. The dead was identified as Rahman Ali (6), son of Mizanur Rahman of Dalarchar village in Bera thana of the district.

About 11,000 people of 13 villages were marooned and standing crops on 9,000 acres of land and 222 kutchas houses in the six thanas of the district were damaged during the 24 hours, district administration sources said.

With this, a total of 22,000 people of 55 villages were marooned and standing crops on 21,000 acres of lands and 576 thatched houses were damaged in the six thanas of the district in last three days.

The newly inundated villages are: Sardirajpur, Chargoishpur, Charhemayetpur and Raninghar in Sadar thana; Mollarhat in Sujanagar thana; Sarishaganj, Makimpur, Paikerhat in Bera thana; Majhipara in Bhangura thana; Diarganj and Srabantipur in

Faridpur thana and Majidpur and Dhabalhat in Charmoahar thana.

Besides, two culverts, one on Masumdia-Dalarchar road in Bera thana and the other on Demra-Faridpur road, were damaged due to torrential rain in last 24 hours.

The Nagarbari Ferry Ghat and Koitola Power Station in Bera thana, built at a cost of Taka 400 crore last year, were threatened to be washed away by surging flood waters.

Meanwhile, the water level of the Jamuna swelled by 6 cm and the river was flowing 19 cm above the danger mark at Nagarbari point while the Padma rose by 13 cm and was flowing 12 cm below the danger level at Harding Bridge point in last 24 hours.

Another report said: Three people were killed by lightning in a primary school in Bera thana of the district on Tuesday morning.

The victims were identified as: Aziz Sheikh (32) and Hatem Sarder (48) of Kazirhat village in Bera thana and Mozam Sarker (28) of Dhanbari village in Sujanagar thana of the district.

They were struck by the thunderbolt when they took shelter at Azimpur Primary School building in Bera thana during rains.

A report from Manikganj

says: The overall flood situation in the district deteriorated further on Saturday with the inundation of fresh areas following incessant monsoon rains.

The affected thanas are: Shivalaya, Harirampur, Ghior, sadar Daulatpur and Satura.

The river Kaliganj that swelled by two cm in last 24 hours flowing above the danger mark at Taraghat point submerged new areas of Satura and sadar thanas.

Water Development Board sources said two children drowned in Daulatpur thana and marooned at least 17,000 in four unions of the thana.

District Control Room sources said about 14,254 kutchas houses in the affected unions were damaged and 7,669 houses partially damaged.

About 25,000 people were rendered shelterless and crops on 24,000 acres of lands were damaged by the floods.

Meanwhile, the water level in the river Jamuna fell by 2 cm at Aricha Ghat point, but it was still flowing above the danger level.

Shortage of food and pure drinking water were reported from the flood affected areas.

Local MP Harunur Rashid Khan visited the affected areas of Shivalaya thana and distributed relief goods including

cash among the flood victims.

BSS reports from Jamalpur says: A discussion meeting on the Flood Action Programme (FAP) and Jamalpur Pilot Project was held at the local public hall under the auspices of the ADAB.

Speakers at the meeting stressed the need for dreading the rivers in the district as well as for construction of the embankment to provide flood protection for the district.

It was addressed among others by Abul Kalam Azad MP, Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury, Executive Engineer and local political leaders of BNP and the Awami League.

Another report from Hatiya adds: Heavy rains and tidal surges washed away embankment in Harni Chanadi union and caused flood situation in the area during the last few days.

The flood submerged standing Aus crops on large area and rendered hundreds of people homeless.

The Chairman of the union parishad said that the people of the area had been passing their days in extreme hardship. He urged the government to take measures for repairing the embankment and rushing relief materials for the affected people.

## Banks fail agri-loan disbursement target

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 26: Distribution target of agricultural loans under the Special Agricultural Credit Programme (SACP) has failed in the Sylhet district during the last season.

According to reports, a total of Taka 70 lakh 30 thousand was sanctioned by the government for distribution among the farmers in 11 thanas of the district.

Of the total amount, only Taka 38 lakh 23 thousand was disbursed during the season in the district.

Of this, Sonali Bank disbursed Taka 1 lakh 41 thousand against its sanctioned amount of Taka 2 lakh, Janata Bank disbursed Taka 5 lakh 75 thousand against its target of Taka 8 lakh, Bangladesh Krishi Bank gave Taka 22 lakh 51 thousand against their target of Taka 30 lakh, Agrani Bank gave Taka 8 lakh 51 thousand against their target of Taka 16 lakh and the Rupali Bank disbursed Taka 5 lakh against its target of Taka 5 lakh 50 thousand.

It can be mentioned here that Agrani Bank (Western Zone) failed to disburse any amount though it had sanctioned amount of Taka 8 lakh 80 thousand to be disbursed among the farmers.

Many poor and marginal farmers deprived of the loans after submission of necessary papers. Officials and employees of the bank branches in the remote areas do not give proper attention to the marginal and poor farmers. But a section of influential people in the villages were getting the loans with nominal papers, it is learnt.

It is gathered that the bank branches do not disburse loans among the marginal farmers and as a result they are losing their interest.

The TB patients are increasing everyday in the district. It is reported that tuberculosis patients of the district are not getting proper treatment at the TB clinic.

## Power supply needed for overall development

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Aug 26: About 100 villages of 15 unions under sadar thana still have no electricity which is very essential for irrigations and industrialisation.

The IRRI-boro cultivation, the main crop of the sadar thana including other areas of the district need continuous irrigation.

Local people said that due to absence of power supply they are to use fuel for running their shallow and deep tubewells.

The farmers informed that shortage of oil and its exorbitant price had been hampering irrigation activities.

Family welfare centres have been set up in these areas with modern equipment which can not be operated without power supply.

Cultivation of perishable crops like onion and ginger facing set back in the absence of preservation facilities.

The inhabitants of the areas have urged the Rural Electrification Board (REB) to take steps in extending power supply to the areas for raising agricultural and industrial output.

A discussion meeting on the "Flood Action" plan was held at the local public hall here recently.

The discussion meeting was organised by Association Development Agencies of Bangladesh (ADAB) with its chairperson Khushi Kabir in the chair while it was addressed among other

by ADC General Hamidur Rahman Khan, FPCO Chief Engineer Asrafi Alam, Journalist Mainuddin Nasir, Abul Kalam Azad MP, Shah Rafiqul Bari MP, Motiya Chowdhury MP, Jamalpur pourashava chairman Faizur Rahman, district BNP president SM Khairul Bashar Chisty and others.

It can be mentioned here that Jamalpur is a flood-hit area in the country. Every year onrush hilly flood waters hit Jamalpur district and loss huge property.

The speakers at the meeting urged to the concerned higher authority implement the plan without further delay.

## Students assault TNO

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 26: A group of local students assaulted Shahjadpur Thana Nirbahi Officer and ransacked his office following a brawl on Saturday, reports UNB.

Shahjadpur police said three students had an exchange of hot words with the TNO when they met with him at his office at 10.30 in the morning.

Later at noon, they came back along with some 20 students of Shahjadpur Government College and attacked his office and assaulted TNO Emdadul Haq. Windowpane, door and furniture of the office were damaged.

## Tk 5.42cr smuggled goods seized

SATKHIRA, Aug 26: The anti-smuggling drive has been geared up in the bordering areas of the district during the last few months.

Smuggled goods worth Taka 5,41,91,922 were recovered by the Jaws of 35 Rifles Battalion posted at Satkhira during the last seven months.

During the period from January '93 to July '93, the BDR Jaws also arrested 121 alleged smugglers and 83 cars were lodged with different police stations.

According to local BDR sources, smuggled goods worth Taka 48,10,7891 were recovered while being smuggled into Bangladesh from India and Taka 6084031 goods were recovered while being smuggled out of the country. When contacted, some residents residing at the bordering areas of the district told this Correspondent that smuggling has been decreased by 80 per cent during the last seven months.

The local BDR authority has geared up anti-smuggling drives

in the bordering areas and smuggled has decreased considerably, they informed.

Bus journey has become hazardous in all the lights routes in Satkhira district due to manifold problems and dilapidated road conditions.

The routes are: Satkhira-Jessore via Navaran, Satkhira-Khulna, Satkhira-Assassuni, Satkhira-Kaliganj, Satkhira-Munshigonj, Satkhira-Bhomra, Satkhira-Baikari and Satkhira-Tala.

Road communication is vital in the district due to absence of riverine routes and thousands of people no other alternative but to avail bus services. Train service is totally absent in the district.

A number of tragic road accidents have taken place in these routes and nothing is done from any quarters to stop these accidents. Narrow roads with ditches and holes presence of hats, bazars on roads sides reckless driving, over taking and grazing of cattle on the roads and highways are mainly

responsible for these accidents.

It is informed that the role of BRTA officials of the district are also responsible for road accidents to a great extent. Mechanically defected and damaged buses are allowed to ply on the roads under special arrangements between the owner's and the BRTA officials.

According to a survey, at least 35 persons were killed and several hundreds were injured in road accidents during the month of January's 93 to August 15 '93 last on different routes of the district.

Overloading is another cause of road accidents. Most of the buses ply on the roads overloaded with passengers both inside and on roof tops. When the buses give passage to another vehicle coming from opposite direction, the bus has to go off the road and turns turtle due to the excess load. Even commodities, poultry birds, fruits and goats are being carried inside the bus causing untold sufferings to the passengers.

## Notes From Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 26: The law and order situation has improved in Chandpur due to stringent measures taken by the law enforcing agency.

The monthly law and order meeting was held at Deputy Commissioner's room with Md. Yakub Ali in the chair.

The meeting disclosed that steps are being taken to reduce crime activities and antisocial activities. The meeting stressed the need for people's co-operation to resist crimes and other antisocial activities in the district.

### Diarrhoea claims 30

Diarrhoea has claimed thirty lives during the last one month in the district. About 3,000 people have been suffering from diarrhoea, mostly in the rural areas.

About fifty medical teams are working in the affected areas to check the diarrhoea disease. The badly affected thanas are: Chandpur, Matlab, Faridganj and Haziganj.

### Cattle, poultry diseases

Diseases of cattle and poultry have broken out at different areas of Chandpur district. It is reported that about 100 cattle perished during the last few months. Besides, about 1,000 poultry birds died of different diseases. It is also reported that cattle and poultry vaccines are not available at the veterinary hospitals.

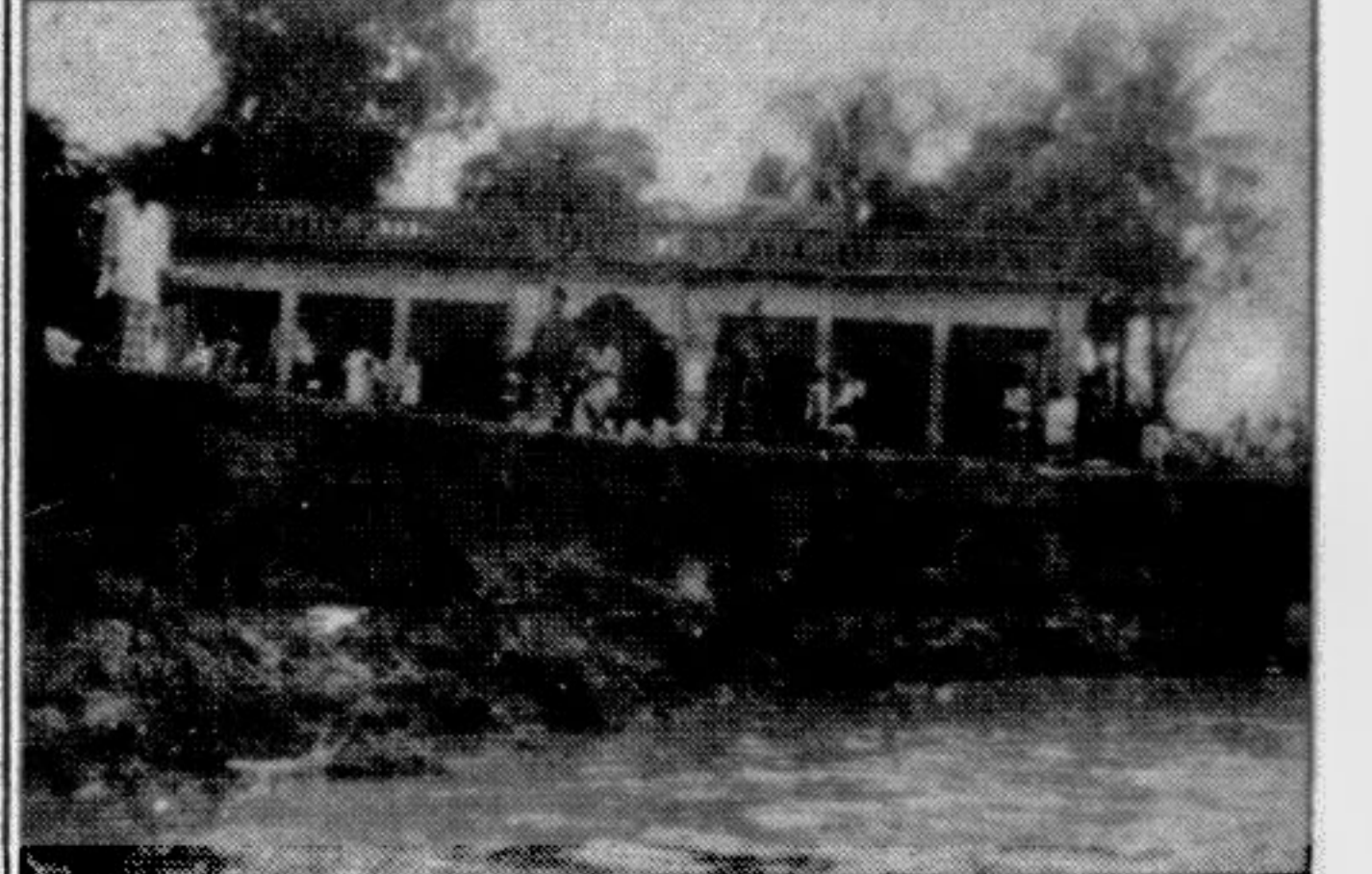
### Unauthorised power consumption

Unauthorised consumption of power has become rampant throughout the district causing system loss and irregular supply of power.

It is reported that there were about 2,000 unauthorised electric lines in seven thanas and municipality. A section of PDB men are involved in such illegal activity. On the other hand, a number of electricity consumers complained that they are not getting their electricity bills regularly and often metre readings show abnormal high figures.



SYLHET: The staff of the local unit of Red Crescent Society are distributing relief materials among the flood victims of Satpur area of the district recently. — Star photo.



MADARIPUR: A building house in Shichear thana of the district may be devoured by the erosion of the river Padma. — Star photo.

## Landless, jobless on rise

From Our Correspondent

BARGUNA, Aug 26: The number of landless and unemployed people is on increase in all the five thanas of the district.

According to a survey conducted by local leaders and journalists, there are seven lakh in the district. Of the total, 75 per cent depend on agriculture, 15 per cent on different types of occupations and the rest 10 per cent are unemployed.

Among the farmers, 60 per cent are landless, 20 per cent marginal and the rest of 20 per cent have some lands, of their own.

The survey report said, river erosion, shortfall of foodgrains, flash flood and other natural calamities were the main causes for increasing landlessness people.

The farmers, having a few acres of land can not cope with the rising prices of agricultural inputs. They to borrow money from the local money lenders at a high rate of interest for livelihood.

The farmers are also deprived of fair price of their produce in the local markets. The poor farmers are not getting irrigation facilities as they can not pay the cost.

The survey also reveals that social unrest and unlawful activities are also on rise with the increases of

landless and unemployed people.

Another report adds: The parking of vehicles at the busy areas and occupation of footpaths by small traders create traffic jams and obstructing the movement of pedestrians.

According to a pourashava sources, 10,000 rickshaws having valid licence ply on the roads. But the actual number of rickshaws would be more than double.

Rickshaws having licences of the adjacent unions also ply on city centre roads making the situation even worse. Besides, lack of traffic knowledge of rickshawpullers multiplies the problem.

## Woman beaten to death

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 26: A woman was mercilessly beaten to death when she protested spraying of tubewell water at her by a girl at Nidarabad village in Sadar thana, police said Monday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the girls, Sharuja Begum of the spread water at victim Monawara (56) while she was returning to her house with tubewell water. As a result a quarrel ensued and Monawara was beaten up mercilessly. Later she succumbed on August 12.