

## CVDP rally held

The annual rally '94 of the Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) of BARD was held at Dedar Model High School premises, Comilla recently, says a BARD press release.

A total of about 800 representatives from the ministries, the Planning Commission, BRDB, the Cooperatives Directorate, RDA Bogra, RDTI Sylhet, Comilla district administration, Comilla Sadar Thana, Burichang Thana as well as members from 23 CVDP societies participated in the rally.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Labour and Manpower, and Rabeya Choudhury, Member of the Parliament were present in the opening ceremony of the rally as chief guest and special guest respectively. Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Director General, BARD presided over the session. The chief guest distributed prizes among the best societies as well as noted male and female cooperators for their significant contribution.

## Brother kills brother!

JHENIDAH, Apr 22: A man was killed allegedly by his younger brother following a family feud on Sunday at Gariala village in sadar, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Rafiuddin.

Police said, Rafiuddin's father sold a plot of land a few days back and Raisuddin demanded the money from his father. But Rafiuddin asked his father not to give him the money. At this, a quarrel ensued between the two brothers and at one stage Raisuddin hit his elder brother Rafiuddin with a bamboo stick causing his instantaneous death.

The body was sent to sadar hospital morgue. A case was lodged with the police.

Another report adds: A student of class II of local Al-Hera Institute drowned in a pond on Sunday.

The victim Rabeya Basri (8) was the only daughter of Rabul Islam of Adarshapura village of sadar thana.

According to family sources, Rabeya while taking her bath alone in a nearby pond suddenly slipped into the deep pond and drowned. Later her body was recovered by neighbours.

## More police camps to curb terrorism

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 22: Five new police camps have been set up in three thanas of the district to root out the criminal activities from the areas, source said here Friday, reports UNB.

Out of the total camps, three have been installed in Kamarkhand thana, known as the criminal zone of the district and one each in sadar and Belkuchi thanas to bring into book the criminals including trouble mongers and professional murderers.

Since the independence of the country more than 100 people, including police officials, political leaders, UP chairman, government officials, businessmen and local elite were killed in Kamarkhand, the smallest thana of the country.

Local leaders said, political killings by the professional assassins recently intensified in the thana.

Police said, Jamat Ali, Kamarkhand thana BNP president, was killed by the professional killers on April 12.

Earlier on March 23, Titash, the nephew of Jamat Ali, was stabbed to death by the same group of assailants.

On February 20, Kamarkhand Jubadal leader Hanif was stabbed critically by the rivals in the district court premises.

The same group also assaulted the local MP Shahidullah Khan as he had undertaken various measures to curb terrorism in the thana.

A large number of villagers started to settle in the district town as they feel insecure in their villages.

Meanwhile, police arrested infamous Matin 45, the alleged killer of Jamat Ali on April 13.

Matin has long been involved in various criminal acts, including murder, robbery, filing of false cases and cattle lifting, police and villagers added.

## Two paper mills workers killed in Pabna

PABNA, Apr 22: Two workers of the North Bengal Paper Mills were killed and three others injured when a steam-valve collapsed on them early today, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Akbar Hossain Balal, 35, and Golam Kibria Dilu, 26.

Injured: Bamu, 22, Abdul Hossain, 24, and Tufazzul, 27, were rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in serious condition.

A case was filed with the court.

## Flood damages boro paddy worth Tk 124cr

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Apr 22: A serious flood has totally paralysed different areas of Sunamganj district following massive losses to the Boro paddy, the only cash crop of the region.

The calamity, caused by the incessant rains and onrush of water from the hilly areas across the Indian border of Meghalaya have totally broken the backbone of lakhs of farmers. The farmers were preparing to harvest the boro paddy, which had already been inundated by the flood waters. The farmers in Sunamganj are now worried about their fate, in the near future.

While talking to this correspondent, some government official of the district informed that, a total of 159 haors have been affected by the early flash flood in the district this year. Embankments along the haors have been damaged in many places. Standing crops on 81,000 hectares

their standing crops damaged by the early floods. They also alleged that, unplanned and faulty construction of embankments had also caused the crop damages in some areas as breached developed at different points and inundated the standing crops inside the embankment areas. Narayan Sutradhar, of village Kachua under Karimpur union said, "we do not want relief, please arrange work for us. About 200 farmers who had harvested crops in this village have been affected by the flood. We will now have to wait for the boro crops in the next year," says one farmer.

The official source further informed that, 13,520 hectares of boro land have been damaged as 13 haors went under the flood waters in Sunamganj sadar thana areas. The estimated loss stands at Taka 20

haor areas causing a total loss of Taka 19 crore 40 lakh.

The official source further informed that, in Dera thana 12,500 hectares of boro land in eight haors had been inundated causing a total damage of 32,500 metric tonnes of paddy worth about Taka 19.15 crore. In Sulla thana crops on 6385 hectares of boro land in 20 haors were damaged. About 16,600 metric tonnes of paddy were damaged worth Taka 9.78 crore. In Jamalganj thana 15,168 metric tonnes of paddy on 5834 hectares of land were damaged which was estimated to cost 9.94 crore.

Boro paddy on 8954 hectares of land in 16 haors of Dharampasha thana have totally been damaged by the calamity. The total loss stood at Taka 13 crore 72 lakh as 23,280 metric tonnes of crop were damaged, the source

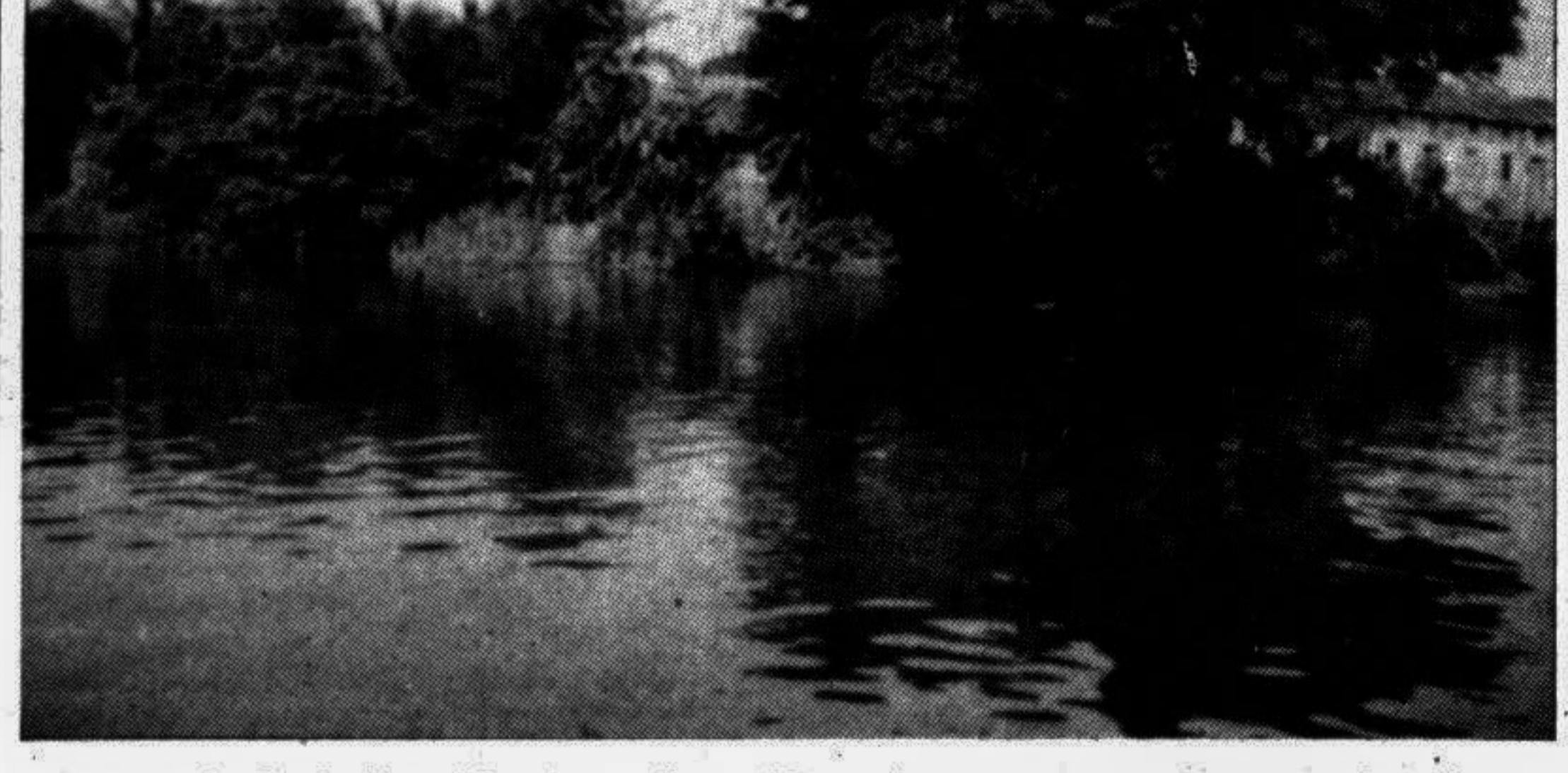
gone under water. I had nothing to worry about if I could save my crops," he further added who had never experienced such early floods even during the last 30 years.

A number of villagers of Kachua under Karimpur union of Dera thana said that boro paddy was the only cash crop of the region. They heavily depend on this crop.

Boro is the only crop grown in the vast tracts of land in the haor areas of the district. There is no scope for cultivating any other crop in these areas.

The sudden flash flood hit the district in the last week of March and continued till mid April. The haors are still full of

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A scene of the flood affected Tukderai village of Dera thana.

— Star photo



Some of the flood victims of Kachua village under Karimpur union of the district.

— Star photo

have totally been damaged.

The quantity of damaged paddy stood at 2 lakh 10 thousand metric tonnes. The loss has been estimated at Taka, 124 crore, the official source informed.

But the unofficial estimate of the loss stood at about Taka two hundred crore.

While visiting some badly affected villages in Dera thana many people were found stunned at the sudden loss of

crore 71 lakh due to the damage of 35,152 metric tonnes of paddy. In Chhatak thana, 4943 hectares of land had gone under water damaging 12,851 metric tonnes of paddy in 14 haors. The loss stands at about Taka seven crore 57 lakh. In Jagannathpur thana 12,660 hectares of boro land were totally damaged. About 32,916 metric tonnes of standing paddy were damaged in 20

added. In Tahirpur thana, 27,362 metric tonnes of standing boro paddy on 10,524 hectares of land were damaged worth Taka 16 crore 12 lakh. In Biswamarpur thana, 1976 metric tonnes of paddy on 700 hectares of land were damaged. The loss stood at Taka 1.16 crore.

"We are not poor, we have houses. But now I am helpless," says Talyab Miah.

"All of my farm land have

water. The situation further worsened with the continuous rains.

The Industries Minister M Jahiruddin Khan has visited some affected areas in Jamalganj, Tahirpur, Chhatak and Sunamganj sadar thanas in March. While talking to the affected people the minister assured them of taking necessary steps.

The State Minister for Relief Harun-Al-Rashid also visited the affected areas in

few days. Immediate steps should be taken to arrange selling of rice in the rural markets and thana headquarters at fixed prices under the Open Market Sale (OMS) programme, it is widely felt.

When contacted, an official source informed that, only 34 tonnes of rice had been sanctioned for selling in Dera, Sulla, Jagannathpur and Tahirpur thanas under the OMS programme.

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## Let us not see poor as a burden

By Naimul Haq

In Bangladesh half of our population live in poverty mostly in rural areas. Many of us see this population as a burden who has no potential or resources. This idea must be removed because it has already been proved that the poor are the most efficient workers. A hidden potential is prevailing among them which is gradually being explored.

Each co-operative society, having members of all different ages, would select one member as their leader who is preferably an influential person (Imam, school teacher, chairman etc) of the group.

The members also select one manager, accountant who is more trusted and responsible, model farmer etc. The selected members are then given intensive training on various subjects at the KTCCA Ltd.

In this way leaders, manager, accountants etc of different co-operative societies are put to training in classes as well as on practical issues like, farming, irrigation, seed preservation, flood control, handling machines, crop growth, post harvesting methods, poultry and cattle farming, rearing of fishery, tailoring etc. All these members of co-operatives are given thorough lessons leaving no gap at all.

All necessary support are given throughout their stay

part," says one member. To implement projects such as a fish farming or dairy farming many do not brave to participate fearing loss of money he or she had invested through savings. The KTCCA Ltd, however, helps the co-operative societies in many occasions by extending credit, supervision, planning as well as implementing the whole programme.

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tries to stay behind the scene giving the members a chance to realise that the whole programme was initiated by themselves.

The co-operatives build up their own capital through regular savings. The capital is obviously used for something constructive.

Every week the co-operative members would sit and discuss issues on progress of a project and its problems. They also plan for future projects.

So, the implementation part becomes the most vital part of training. In reality the rural people show more interest on a particular issue as long as they are engaged in a self-employment job.

The KTCCA Ltd covers an area of 135 square miles which includes 549 villages. All these villages act as model villages which set examples to others who show keen interest on rural development.

The whole population of the area has directly or indirectly benefited the example set by the co-operative societies.

The areas under KTCCA Ltd has turned into a food surplus region. Small industries have been established most of which manufacture agricultural equipment and agro-based products.

A tube-well section shows different uses of water in irrigation.

So, the KTCCA Ltd contributes towards balanced development of rural area. The total changes in socio-economic condition of rural areas largely depends on organisation and management.

Poverty in rural areas in real terms can only be removed through exploring the resources hidden in rural people.

It is no doubt that the poor has vast potential of work forces. If we continue to think poor as a burden, we could be mistaken.

We must think positive by giving a chance to our poor who has more to offer than we have.

The main objective of KTCCA Ltd is to give support of various skills and serve as a research and demonstration laboratory. To conduct its purposes KTCCA Ltd organises rural people spread across the villages in groups or form co-operatives.

The KTCCA Ltd or the training institute was originally established mainly to promote agriculture in its adjoining areas. However, its

at the institution.

At present there are more than 250 men and women who have come here as far away as Pabna, Natore, Mymensingh, Noakhali, Faridpur, Madaripur for training purposes. Once the training period is over the group members are sent back to their respective villages to share their knowledge with other members.

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