



KJAGRACHHARI: Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, MP, returning after receiving the tribal refugees at the Shilachari border in India. The bamboo bridge was recently erected over the canal-like Feni river on the occasion of refugee repatriation on Thursday. Bangladeshi tribal refugees (R) are crossing the Indian border. A total of 357 refugees of 69 families returned home on the first day.



—Star photos by Anisur Rahman.

## Number of TB patients on rise in Jhenidah, Magura

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 23: The number of TB patients is increasing alarmingly in Jhenidah and Magura districts. But only the TB clinic is too inadequate to meet the demand of the patients. As a result the patients have been suffering badly.

It is learnt that there is no TB clinic at Jhenidah the patients are to depend on Magura Clinic. Over 4 lakh people of two districts depend on the clinic for their medical treatment but the TB patients are deprived of proper treatment as the clinic lacks sufficient life saving drugs, blood, bank, necessary instruments, ambulance and other facilities. It is learnt from a concerned source that everyday fifteen to eighteen patients come to the clinic for treatment 35,00 to. But there is no sufficient medicines in the clinic.

The source said, the overall environment of the clinic is not hygienic. Toilet and urinals remain dirty as they are not cleaned regularly.

Magura TB clinic is located by the Magura-Jessore highway and side of the bus stoppage is located at the same place. As a result, it remains always noisy.

The local people and the leaders stressed the need for improving the environment of Magura TB Clinic and to set up a TB Clinic at Jhenidah.

## Opposition accused of hatching conspiracy to foil democracy

LALMONIRHAT, July 23: Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury has accused the opposition parties of hatching a conspiracy to foil democracy by making the Sangsad ineffective, reports BSS.

The Home Minister was addressing public meetings on the occasion of inauguration of five new customs corridors at the borders of Sonabaria in Satkhira district, Rajbari and Sultanpur in Rajshahi district and Islampur in Lalmonirhat district recently.

The Home Minister said the BNP government has created a dynamism of development under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Construction of thousands of miles of roads, bridges and culverts bore testimony to the achievements of the government, he said.

He further said allocation (ADP) of Taka eleven thousand crore in the Annual Development Programme is the highest in the history of the country. The contribution of national resources to the ADP would go up to 38 per cent during the current fiscal year from 35.5 per cent last year, the socio-economic condition of the country would undergo a radical change with the implementation of the ADP, he hoped.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury listed the achievements of the BNP government in various sectors including education and agriculture.

## Gopalganj Sadar Hospital beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, July 23: The Gopalganj sadar hospital has been beset with various problems including dearth of accommodation, medicine, poor diet and toilet facilities etc.

The hospital was established in 1991 with 50 beds when the population of the district was one fourth of the present size. At present 80 to 100 patients are accommodated in the ward and verandas in an unhygienic condition.

The annual allocation of money for the hospital is inadequate. Moreover dearth of medicines is prevailing in the hospital. The patients are to purchase medicines and other requirements from the market.

The condition of the operation theatre is deplorable. Dearth of instruments hampers the operations. The operation theatre is not well furnished and well equipped.

The hospital wards are overcrowded with the patients old and dirty of bed sheets, pillows, blankets and mattresses are frequently used there.

The condition of female ward is deplorable. There is no proper system to accommodate the patients in the hospital. Both the medicine and surgery patients are accommodated in one bed.

The accommodation facilities for the female patients are very scanty. Many patients coming from far-flung areas are refused admission for want of hospital beds.

The sanitary condition in the kitchen as well as the wards is very bad. The tanks are found overflowing with dirt emitting bad odour, thus polluting the atmosphere in the hospital area.

There is no cholera and diarrhoea wards in the hospital. There is also no separate wards for the infectious diseases like pox, dysentery etc.

The unnecessary and untimely rush of visitors and mastans to quite a regular feature.

Excepting the RMO and the eye consultant, all other doctors including the Civil Surgeon live outside the hospital compound.

## Poor collection of land tax in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 23: Target of land revenue and tax collection has not been achieved in Sirajganj district due to shortage of staff in the collectorate and financial hardship of the tax-payers. Out of targeted Tk 1,96,47,000 only Tk 47,66,457 has been collected during last 11 months ended on May 30.

In 1992-93 fiscal year, 67.78 per cent of targeted revenue was collected. This year, the collection position has deteriorated. Meanwhile, the Government has lodged 17,640 certificate cases against the defaulters mostly of which include the mills, factories, educational institutions and other commercial plots.

It is gathered that land revenue and taxes are collected in Sirajganj district through 72 Tehsil offices supervised by nine Assistant Commissioners (land). A total of 70 posts including five posts of Kanungo, 12 Tehsildars, 32 Assistant Tehsildar, two Surveyors, 11 lower division assistants, two process servers and six peons have been remaining vacant in Sirajganj collectorate for a long time.

Shortage of staff has been hindering revenue collection in the district.

## Notes From Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

Election of the Managing Committee of Rajnagar Degree College for the year 1994-96 was held recently.

Direct polling was held for the four posts of guardians representing. The elected guardians representatives are Askir Khan, Abdul Hannan, Sundar Baksh and Ajmal Husain.

Meanwhile, teachers of the college have also elected their representatives to the Managing Committee. The elected teachers representatives are Habibur Rahman, A K M Imdadul Hoque and vice-principal of the college Jilaluddin Ahmed.

It may be mentioned here that post of Chairman and Member-Secretary of the Managing Committee were ex-officio reserved for the local MP and principal by the order of the National University.

## Ratha-yatra observed

Ratha-yatra, a religious festival of the Hindu community was observed throughout the district with due religious fervour recently.

Sri Sri Modan Mohan Jew Akhra Committee of Moulvibazar town organised the festival in the town. The chariot, a procession with chariot. The image of Lord Jagannath was on the chariot.

It may be mentioned here that drawing the chariot, carrying the image of Lord Jagannath, Subadra and Balaram were the main features of this traditional festival that marked the annual sojourn of Lord Jagannath.

Devotees at Srimongol town also brought out several chariot procession in this occasion.

## Supply of fish inadequate

Supply of all varieties of fish is inadequate and prices of all kinds of vegetables including potato have abnormally shot up in the markets of the district.

Fish has become a rare commodity by chance if it is available in small quantities it sells at an exorbitant rate. Singhi, magur are being sold at Taka 70 to 90 per kilogram.

Though it is season of hilsa it is being sold at Taka 60 to 110 per piece. On the other hand, potal though available in plenty is now being sold at Taka 12 per kilogram. Potato, kakrul and and korola are being sold at Taka 9, 7, and 10 respectively.

## Show utmost restraint to help flourish democracy

CHAR BOYRA(Patuaakhali), July 23: Religious Affairs Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali has called upon all to show utmost restraint to help flourish and strengthen the process of democracy in the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing a cross section of people at Char Boyra High School premises here recently.

All said, everyone should show due respect to the articles of our constitution so that the democratic system, now prevailing in the country, could continue for ever.

In this context the minister said that the present government is keen to run the country under the constitution of the country. Those who shed crocodile tears in the name of democracy, have been working against the basic principles of democracy, he added.

The present government always believed that the people were the source of all power and as such the government was being run with the verdict of the people, Keramat Ali said. Later, the minister went to Dumki and visited the development work in the area. He directed all concerned to complete the projects in due time to serve the cause of the people.

## Production target of aman paddy may fail in N-dists

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 23: Insufficient rainfall this year has seriously threatened production target of the transplanted aman in entire northern region of the country.

It is learnt from reliable sources that the production target of transplanted aman may not be achieved this year from the northern region.

Compared to rainfall of last year in the region this year it is very likely that about 25 per cent transplanted aman cultivated will be affected due to inadequate rainfall.

It is learnt that the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation's Extension Department has fixed the target to cultivate 6, 94, 680 hectares of land in eight northern districts of greater Rajshahi. Pabna and Bogra to produce 15,39,320 metric tons of aman paddy. The district wise break up of the cultivable lands are — 77,400 hectares in Rajshahi, 1,73, 810 in Naogaon, 28,082 hectares in Natore, 1,87,650 hectares in Chapainabaganj, 75,842 hectares in Joypurhat, 54,642 hectares in Bogra, 41,326 hectares in Pabna and 55,928 hectares in Sirajganj.

About two third of the total estimated land has been brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) of aman paddy.

According to the BADC Information Centre, the best time for aman transplantation is between the middle of Bangla month of Ashar to the Sraban.

The best time for aman cultivation has already passed away, says a farmer.

Due to inadequate rainfall only 30 per cent land was used for cultivation.

Monthlong load-shedding has also adversely affected the existing irrigation facilities. The condition is worse in the Barind tract areas. Besides, most of the poor and marginal farmers cannot afford irrigation cost who have to depend on the mercy of nature for transplanted aman farming being the main crop of the region.

A BADC source said that about 60-70 per cent target could be achieved within the last week of Sraban month but late cultivation would decrease the production alarmingly.

Meanwhile, about 2.50 lakh tons of paddy is expected to be produced during the current aus season from the region.

According to BADC Information Centre, a total of 1,81,500 hectares of land has been brought under aus paddy farming during the season in region.

It is learnt that light and intermittent rain have favoured the cultivation of aus paddy this year. Production is expected to be satisfactory. Sources hope that about 15.40 lakh metric tons of paddy will be produced during the current aus monsoon.

Our Rangpur Correspondent adds: The jute farmers all over the northern region have been facing much difficulties in rating of their jute crop due to want of source of water as most of the ponds, beels, canals and other available water bodies have already dried-up following continuous drought that persisting for long in the region.

During the current season about three lakh and fifty thousand acres of land were brought under jute cultivation in the region. Over sixty lakh maunds of jute is expected to be produced from the area.

Experts on agriculture predict that the target of jute production would not be achieved in the region during the current season due to drought.

## Train service irregular

## Sufferings of passengers on Dhaka, Mymensingh route mount

GAZIPUR, July 23: The suffering of the train passengers on Dhaka-Mymensingh route has gone beyond the limit due to various reasons like irregularity of trains and inadequate number of compartments, reports UNB.

According to passengers, the passenger coaches in both the intercity and local trains are not being attached with first and second class compartments creating great inconvenience to the passengers especially the old and sick people.

As a result, the passengers are compelled to travel by the over crowded third class compartments. The sick passengers cannot board the trains at different stations as the passengers have to board the train with their physical strength.

On the other hand, a large number of passengers are travelling in luggage vans and on the rooftop of the trains, even by standing both sides of the engines.

The increasing number of passengers travelling without tickets has aggravated the situation as there is no checking system in this line causing inconvenience to the genuine passengers. Beggars, hawkers, toll collectors and smugglers multiply the sufferings of the passengers.

Most of the time, the security guards, drivers and guard on duty remain silent spectators when the unruly ticketless passengers stop the train at different stations.

Meanwhile, smuggled goods like sarees, salt, sugar, fruits, cosmetics and crockeries are transported regularly through the train and theft has become a regular feature in the trains.

However, the compartments of the trains are also remain uncleaned and dirty in the absence of water supply spreading bad smell in the compartments.

The passengers also alleged that the ticket counter was being opened just before the train arrival and many passengers boarded the train to capture their seat without purchasing the ticket causing loss to the railway authority.

Moreover, the clerk in the booking centres of different stations on the line charge increased fair from the passengers and sometimes they sell unlimited number of tickets crowding the compartments and causing difficulties to the bonafide passengers.

The passengers have urged the railway authority to look into the matter and take immediate steps to remove the obstacles for the smooth train journey.

## Shortage of staff, water, power supply

## Health complexes of Kishoreganj face multiple problems

KISHOREGANJ, July 23: Almost all the health complexes of the district including sadar hospital have been facing multiple problems including shortage of staff, physicians, water and power supply, reports UNB.

Unhygienic atmosphere, absence of blood bank and overall shortage of medical apparatus have added the miseries of the patients coming from the town and as well as far flung areas for better treatment.

It is alleged that every day a large number of patients are to go back without having needed treatment due to absence of proper medicare facilities.

Most of these health complexes have no X-ray machine, blood bank, dental or ophthalmic and infectious disease treatment facilities.

Besides, shortage of physicians and their irregular services and indifference of other staff members have aggravated the situation.

Patients and the local leaders alleged that most of the doctors of these complexes including Sadar Hospital are found busy with their own private practice.

Sufferers alleged that a few senior doctors practising outside the hospital and some technicians working in private clinics, have formed a vicious circle with the help of the local mastans and owners of private clinics. They force the patients to go to the private clinics instead of health complexes.

It is learnt that important and life saving drugs supplied to the health complexes are being sold in nearby markets by some dishonest staff of the health complexes and hospital.

The patients are compelled to buy the medicines from the market at exorbitant prices. Many doctors of different health complexes and sub-centres of the district working on deputation in different health complexes and hospitals are found absent most of the time.

As a result, the poor patients coming from remote villages to the health complexes go back without treatment.

On the other hand, scarcity of drinking water, lack of proper conservancy services, inadequate beds, supply of sub-standard food to the patient have multiplied the sufferings of the admitted patients in these health complexes.

The patients alleged that nurses, technicians and fourth class employees misbehave with them frequently.

Local elite have urged the authorities to take steps to mitigate the sufferings of the patients ensuring better medicare facilities immediately.

## District roundup

**MEHERPUR**  
Call to assemble under banner of nationalism  
July 23: State Minister for Forest and Environment Goyeswar Chandra Roy called upon Jubo Dal workers to assemble at the call of Begum Khaleda Zia under the banner of nationalism and being imbued with the ideals of Shaheed Zia, reports BSS.

Describing Jubo Dal as a democratic organisation having influenced by the ideals of Shaheed Zia, Roy said all members of the Jubo Dal have played due role during various crises and calamities in the country. He called upon Jubo Dal members to take part in nation building activities including tree plantation.

The minister was inaugurating the conference of Meherpur district Jubo Dal. Mirza Abbas, MP, President of Jubo Dal central committee attended the function as chief guest.

The function was also addressed by Moshir Rahman and Abdul Ghani, both members of parliament and Jubo Dal central leader Advocate Moazzem Hossain Allal.

Mirza Abbas called upon all to be united under the banner of Jubo Dal for all round development of the country.

**BRAHMANBARIA**  
Contraband goods worth Tk 34,000 seized  
July 23: Police seized 150 bottles of Indian phenisyl syrup and five bottles of liquor from a Dhaka bound minibus at Ashuganj Ferry Ghat last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, Ashuganj police raided the coaster and recovered the contraband goods worth about Tk 34,000.

A case was lodged with Ashuganj police in this connection. The seized contraband items were deposited with the local customs.

**FARIDPUR**  
One killed in road mishap  
July 23: An unidentified pedestrian was killed in a road accident at Gangabari, 7 kilometres west of the town, on Faridpur-Khulna Highway recently, reports UNB.

Police said the 60-year-old man was run over by a inter-district bus of Tuhin Paribahan while he was going to nearby Kanaipur hat with a load of jute on his head.

He was admitted to Faridpur Government Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

A case was registered with Kotwali police in this connection.

**SATKHIRA**  
Smuggled goods recovered  
July 23: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered Indian smuggled goods worth over Tk one lakh from Bhorma and Kuskhalia areas of the town on Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, BDR jawans raided the areas and recovered the contrabands which include, sarees, radio, carbon, film, teramycin and vitamin B Complex injections and cloth.

Apprehending the possible raid, all the smugglers ran away from their houses. The contrabands were deposited with the local customs go-down.

**GAZIPUR**  
Non-registered marriages on rise  
July 23: The number of non-registered marriages in the district is on rise despite government's step to facilitate registration by reducing fees from Tk 30 Tk 5, reports UNB.

Informed sources said that a vast majority of the people do not know that a nominal fee has been fixed for the registration of marriages.

Local people complained that ignoring government rules and regulation; most of the Marriage Registrars realise the registration fee by calculating percentage on the basis 'mohrana'.

They also alleged that there is none to look after the activities of the Marriage Registrars locally known as Kazis. The guardians are to comply with the demand of the Kazis.

They urged the government to display a notice board on the government fixed registration fee Tk 5 in every Kazi office asking the people not to give more money for the purpose.

**RANGPUR**  
Drought hampers cultivation  
July 23: The persistent drought over the last one month in the district has been hampering the cultivation of aman paddy and other seasonal crops, reports UNB.

Farmers said that seeds were ready but they could not prepare the field for plantation due to lack of rain water.

Official sources said that about 1,53,300 hectares of land were brought under aman cultivation and the target of production has been fixed at 5 lakh metric tons with the successful implementation of the scheme.

But farmers apprehended that if the drought continues, about 40 per cent land in the district may be left uncultivated.

**SIRAJGANJ**  
Dacoity committed  
July 23: Armed dacoits swooped on a passenger boat in mid of the river Jamuna and fled with booties worth nearly Tk 1.5 lakh in Chundumirchar of Tangail district recently, reports UNB.

The river pirates about 15 men attacked the Sirajganj ghat bound boat carrying about 46 passengers from Jagannathganj Ghat this afternoon and injured nearly 30 of them when they resisted.

The dacoits, who came by another engine boat at around 3:00 pm were armed with cut rifles and other lethal weapons, sufferers said.

The injured passengers were mostly travelling towards the northern districts and were being treated at local clinics.

They were travelling in boats due to closure of the railway for the last six months.

No case has been lodged yet in this connection.

**SYLHET**  
Two killed in road accident  
July 23: Two people were killed and two others critically injured when a truck overturned at Haripur in Joyantipur thana on Sylhet-Zaflang road Thursday, reports UNB.

The injured Nibaran (31) and Abdur Rahim (20) were admitted to Sylhet M A G Osmani Hospital in serious condition. But the dead could not be identified immediately, police said.

The bodies were sent to the hospital for autopsy.

Witnesses said the truck turned turtle as the driver lost control over the steering.

People seized the truck, but the driver and his helper, however, fled the scene.

**MAULVIBAZAR**  
Scheme to develop Madav Kunda Waterfall  
July 23: Moulvibazar Zila Parishad has taken up a scheme to develop Madav Kunda Waterfall as a tourist and picnic spot with an expenditure of Tk 12 lakh, says UNB.

According to official sources, the scheme included construction of a rest house, a canteen for tourists, a picnic spot and a parking centre for the vehicles.

Madav Kunda Waterfall is noted for its scenic beauty attraction. It is also a place of Hindu pilgrimage. Hindu community takes holy bath here.

It is situated at Patharia hills in Barlekha thana in the district about seven km away from Dakshinbag Railway Station of Kulara-Shahbazpur railway section and connected with some land routes.

Every year hundreds of people come here to have a glimpse and for picnic purposes and they are to face a lot of problem in the absence of basic amenities.

**TANGAIL**  
Plant fair held  
July 23: A two-day long plant fair was held at Binduba shinee Govt High School playground recently, reports BSS.

Forest Department sponsored the fair where a total of forty-one stalls with plants of fruits and timbers were set up.

The stalls were set up by Forest Department, NGOs, Govt offices and individual nurseries.

State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan inaugurated the fair. Speaking on the occasion he expressed the hope that the members of the public would plant trees in their initiative in their premises.