

Scarcity of drinking water in Alamdanga, Darshana

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug 8: The inhabitants Alamdanga and Darshana of the district have been suffering much for want of pure drinking water due to the absence of smooth of water supply system.

Although there are a few hand pump tubewells in these two pourashavas. But these are quite inadequate to meet the demand. Most of the hand pump tubewells have gone out of order for a long time causing much hardship to the people of these two pourashavas in procuring drinking water.

Often the people of these two pourashavas are to procure water from the beels, canals, wells and ponds in different areas to meet the requirement of drinking water because of shortage of tubewells and ab-

sence of proper water supply arrangements.

It may be mentioned that the water of the tubewells of these places contains maximum quantum of iron causing rapid change of colour and taste, consequently upon it most of the people of these two towns like Alamdanga and Darshana suffer from dysentery round the year.

The people of these two pourashavas of the district feel that the supply pure drinking water can be ensured through a smooth of water supply scheme.

Early steps of the concerned authorities in this regard would really alleviate the sufferings of the people of Alamdanga and Darshana pourashavas of the district.

Ullapara Municipality inaugurated

ULLAPARA, Aug 8: LGRD and Cooperative Minister Abdus Salam Talukder has formally inaugurated the Ullapara Municipality at a function here yesterday, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at the TTDC building premises here in this connection, the LGRD Minister said that 30 new municipalities had been established in the country after assumption of power by the BNP government. He also disclosed that many other thana head quarters would be turned into municipalities in phases for upgrading civic facilities.

There were only 84 municipalities when the government came to power, but the number has now increased to 114, he pointed out. He also mentioned that highest-ever amount of Tk 110 crore had been allocated for the municipalities, by this government.

Presided over by local BNP acting president Matjur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by M Akbar Ali, Mirza Muraduzzaman MP, Shahidullah Khan MP, Abdur Mannan Talukder MP, Kamruddin Yahya Khan Majlish, Humayun Islam Khan, Samiul Islam and Azad Hussain.



CHITTAGONG: The annual art exhibition '94 of the Department of Fine Arts of the Chittagong University inaugurated recently.

'Country's independence will be at stake if democracy destroyed'

JESSORE, Aug 8: Post and Telecommunication Minister Tariqul Islam has said that the country's independence would be at stake if democracy is destroyed because the two are supplementary to each other, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at Natunhat sadar thana the minister called upon all to unitedly resist any conspiracy against democracy and independence of the country.

Criticising Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina for joining hands with the autocrat Islam said Sheikh Hasina once in the parliament demanded trial of autocrat Ershad but now for some mysterious reason joined hands with Jatiya Party for the release of Ershad.

The minister said Jamaat-e-Islami gave misinterpretation of the Holy Quran and 'sell heaven on credit to illiterate people'. They are killing peo-

ple and severing human veins in the name of Islam, he said.

Islam said Awami League had joined this 'traders of religion and anti-liberation force to unseat the democratic government.'

Islam said 'our independence is not a gift of mercy from anyone.' People of this country fought and sacrificed for independence.

BNP is a party which uphold the culture, civilisation and religious feeling of people of this geographical boundary, he said.

The minister said ninety percent of the future generation is inspired by the politics of the nationalist party.

Because of this the decadent forces of Awami League, Jamaat and Jatiya Party have joined hands to conspire against independence and sovereignty of the country, the minister said.

The meeting was addressed by the local leaders.

Seminar on moral development approach held

RANGAMATI, Aug 8: Rangamati Local Government Council organised a seminar on 'a proposal to the United Nations on moral development approach: a new world order for peace' here yesterday, report BSS.

Chairman of Rangamati, local government council Parijat Kusum Chakma attended the seminar as the chief guest.

The key-note paper was presented by Dr Abu Obaidul Huque, Professor and Director of the Bangladesh Institute for Advancement of Science and Technology Teaching.

The speakers at the seminar urged the United Nations and its member states to consider and accept this timely proposal for universal moral development programme in the greater interest and welfare of making for promoting the establishment of durable peace, discipline and justice at individual, social and global level.

Former Presidential adviser and an eminent tribal leader Subimal Dewan presided over the seminar.

12,100 destitute families to be brought under VGDP

BARISAL, Aug 8: A total of 12,100 destitute families will be brought under Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGDP) in the district in the current financial year, reports UNB.

The Relief and Rehabilitation office sources said these families consisting of about 60,500 members will be issued ration cards to draw wheat. Each family will get 32.25 kg of wheat per month free of cost under the programme.

Thana-wise break up of families are as follows: Sadar-3000, Bakerganj-1500, Babuganj and Hizla-242, Mehendiganj-520, Muladi-280, Gournadi-548, Agaljhara-2850, Uzirpur-340, Banaripara-242.

This programme will continue for two years. With the implementation of the programme the destitute families will be immensely benefited.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to expand the programme so that other destitute families of the district get the same facilities.

'Govt firm to put down terrorism'

MAGURA, Aug 8: Agriculture, Irrigation and Flood Control Minister M Majidul Huq said the present government was determined to put down terrorism, extortion of tolls and other crimes with an iron hand, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking at a review meeting on the overall law and order situation in Magura district. The meeting was attended by the public representatives, members of different professional groups and government officials.

He said peaceful law and order situation was a pre-condition for the development and progress of the country and asked the members of the law enforcing agencies to discharge their responsibility impartially. He urged the people to extend their co-operation to the law enforcing agencies in curbing crimes.

The Irrigation Minister said terrorists and toll extortionists must be meted out exemplary punishment. He directed the local administration to ignore any lobbying for the criminals from any quarters.

Cultivation being hampered in Kishoreganj district

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 8: Transplanted Aman cultivation in different parts of the district is being hampered for want of rain.

Aman plants require sufficient quantity water in the fields. The sporadic rain in the district failed to meet requirement of water for the cultivation.

This is the proper time to transplant the saplings of paddy viz BR-11, BR-4, BR-23,

BR-25, mala, pajam, etc. But the farmers could not transplant due to non-availability of water in the fields. The water of river, canal beels and haor has also dried up and for want of water, cultivation of transplanted aman on about 20,000 hectares of land has become impossible. About 70790 hectares of land will be brought under aman paddy cultivation in Kishoreganj district during the current sea-

son, and the production target has been fixed at 15,6975 metric tons of paddy.

On the otherhand, aman plants on a vast areas grew yellowish and have been reduced to straws for want of water. Besides, seedlings of early variety of paddy are growing old on the seed beds.

Jute growers are also facing similar problems as they cannot process their harvested jute for want of water.

Allowances of UP chairmen, members to be increased

ULLAPARA, Sirajganj, Aug 8: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar said the government had decided to increase the allowances of Union Parishad chairmen, members, chowkidars and dafadars, report BSS.

The minister was addressing a rally of UP chairmen and cooperators of Ullapur thana Saturday.

Termining the union parishad as the focal point of all development activities, the minister said union parishads should become economically self-reliant, reducing their dependence on government in implementing the development programmes successfully.

The minister said the government had empowered the union parishads to impose taxes on six sectors and given authority to lease out a ferry ghat up to 30 thousand Taka and a hat-bazar upto 50 thousand Taka.

He said the government

wanted to see the union parishads economically strong local government institutions.

Salam said the government had given allocation of 25 lakh Taka for each thana on an average to carry out development activities.

He called upon chairmen and members to become more active in realising taxes.

The minister said the government had exempted simple interest and penal interest on cooperator's agricultural loan by 100 per cent and had given the opportunity to repay the original loan in ten installments.

Salam said though it was the responsibility of the workers of TCC to finance their own salary, the government had given them two crore taka of support as salary.

Mentioning that the rate of savings and credit repayment was higher among the women's cooperative societies compared to the male cooperative societies, the minister underlined the need for increasing the number of women's cooperatives.

The meeting was presided over by deputy commissioner of Sirajganj Syed Abdul Malek while M Akbar Ali MP, Mirza Muraduzzaman MP and local cooperative leaders spoke on the occasion.

College teacher dies

CHANDPUR, Aug 8: Prof Tajul Islam, Head of the Department of Botany, Chandpur Govt College, died of a massive heart attack Sunday morning. He was 52, reports UNB.

Prof Islam left behind his old parents, wife, three children, a host of friends, well wishers and students to mourn his death.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at the college ground.

Ganja plants recovered

JAMALPUR, Aug 8: Melandah thana police recovered 27 illegal ganja plants from village Haripurpathalia recently.

Police sources said, acting on a secret information a special police squad led by Md Serajul Islam, OC Melandah thana, SI M A Khayer, SI Mahfuzur Rahman raided a house of village Haripurpathalia under the said thana and recovered the ganja plants.

A case has been filed with Melandah thana under special 1990 Anti-Drug Control Act, section No-19(3) in this connection.

When contacted Md Serajul Islam OC, Melandah thana, told this correspondent that accused ganja planter Abdul Majid, son of Kazim Uddin has been planting ganja trees at premises close to his house for a long time.

6 districts under Barisal div 1.30 lakh handlooms on verge of closure

BARISAL, Aug 8: More than 1.30 lakh handlooms of six districts under Barisal division out of 1.50 lakh are on the verge of closure, reports UNB.

Hundreds of handloom weavers in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur who are dependent on this occupation are becoming jobless due to price hike of necessary inputs and other burning problems.

Some weavers said the handlooms have no future as the prices of necessary ingredients like yarn, dyes and chemicals have gone beyond their purchasing capacity long ago.

They said the problem has

compounded further due to rampant smuggling of Indian cotton cloths and different varieties of sarees and lungis into the country.

Besides, unusual competition in the market has made the future of the handloom products bleak while the government policy for granting loans and realising the same has made the financial condition of the poor weavers miserable.

Local leaders said if immediate steps are not taken to safeguard the interest of the weavers, the factories will face immediate closure, rendering the hundreds of weavers and their families into destitute.

District roundup

BARISAL LGED implements 485 development projects

Aug 8: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is now implementing 485 uplift projects in the district with an expenditure of Tk 16.75 crore, reports UNB.

Asian Development Bank has provided the financial assistance for these projects.

Among the projects, 380 are being implemented under Rural Primary Education Programme and the rest under post Cyclone Rehabilitation Programme.

Meanwhile, LGED has completed 328 projects in the district till June 30 while the other works will be completed soon.

The projects include repair and reconstruction of government and non-government registered primary schools, official sources added.

With the implementation of the projects, a long felt demand of the people will be met and primary education in the district will get further boost.

KISHOREGANJ 'BNP govt will ensure free, fair polls'

Aug 8: Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahidul Haq said, the opposition parties are trying to go to power through raising a unconstitutional and undemocratic issues of a caretaker government, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting at Charpalash High School ground under Sukkhi union of Pakundia thana of the district recently.

The deputy minister said the BNP government will ensure free and fair election through providing more power to Election Commission. He said, Jatiya Sangsad is the only right platform to resolve all problems but the opposition parties are trying to jeopardise the ongoing democratic process perusing undemocratic programmes, he regretted.

Haq called upon the people not to be misled by the evil propaganda of the opposition and to involve themselves in the politics of production being perused by BNP government.

C'NAWABGANJ Flood situation worsens

Aug 8: Flood situation in the district has been worsening due to continuous onrush of hilly waters, reports UNB.

Low lying areas of the district have already been inundated causing extensive damage to standing crops. Several families have already been marooned and passing a miserable life as many of their dwellings were damaged by the onrush of flood water.

Meanwhile, some 1200 people of 300 families have also been rendered homeless on account of erosion of the river Padma.

On the other hand, a vast area of Barendra remained uncultivated due to prevailing drought. Thousand acres of land in areas have already dried up for excessive heat and sunny weather in the absence of rain in the rainy season.

Experts said that if the cultivation is not possible before 15th of the current month, the expected production target would not be achieved.

NETRAKONA Orientation course held

Aug 8: A day long orientation course for government officials, bank officers, public representatives, NGO representatives, local traders of irrigation machinery was held at the Netrakona Zila Parishad auditorium recently, reports UNB.

The whip of the ruling party in the Jatiya Sangsad Advocate MA Karim inaugurated the course which was sponsored by the north-east minor irrigation project in Netrakona region and Agricultural Extension Department, Netrakona.

The function was presided over by the Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department Netrakona, Sirajul Haque. It was addressed among others by Mubinnuddin Ahmed, project manager of north east minor irrigation project and Tuzammel Haque executive engineer of the local government engineering department.

BRAHMANBARIA Three eve teasers rounded up

Aug 8: Police nabbed three eve teasers from near the Anandamoyi Girls High School in the town last week, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as MA Zahir, Didarul Alam and Mintu Miah of the town. Police said the youngmen were rounded up while they were teasing the school going girls.

A case has been filed in this connection.

Another report adds: The 240th birth anniversary of Samuel Haniman, father of Homeopathic medicine was observed here at the District Council auditorium recently.

Bangladesh Homeopathic Medical Association organised the function with Dr SK Abdul Karim in the chair. President of the organisation Dr Alamgir Moti inaugurated.

Among others, it was addressed by Advocate Abdus Sattar MP, Principal Minnat Ali, Dr Badrul Alam and Dr MA Qader.

RANGPUR Pro-AL Chhatra League rival groups clash

Aug 8: At least ten students were injured in a pro-Awami League Chhatra League rival factions clash Sunday morning at the party office at Station Road, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when a faction attacked the meeting of the new committee of other faction at the party office.

The clash continued for about an hour. Both the factions used hockey sticks, iron rods and brick bats. Several crackers were also blasted. Police quickly intervened and brought the situation under control.

No case was filed in this connection but tension is mounting among the factions. BCL sources said.

SYLHET Pourashava completes 72 schemes

From Our Correspondent

Aug 8: Works on a total of 72 schemes had already been completed in Sylhet Pourashava areas recently, while works on 9 others have been nearing completion.

When contacted, Chairman, Sylhet Pourashava AFM Kamal informed that, all these 81 schemes were taken up by the pourashava during the last financial year at a total expenditure of Taka 3 crore and 72 lakh.

The schemes include, 36 under the 'Secondary Town Development Programme', while 25 were under the Annual Development Programme with the assistance from the Government and 20 were taken up with the pourashavas' own funding. The Secondary Town Development Programme is being implemented with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), he added.

The schemes include, Construction and Reconstruction of Roads, culverts, bridges, drains, protection walls, tree-plantation, extension of water supply systems, renovation of halls and others, the source added.

HABIGANJ Cattle, poultry diseases break out

From Our Correspondent

Aug 8: Cattle and poultry diseases have broken out throughout Ajmirganj of the district in an epidemic form.

It is learnt that over 100 cattle and other poultry birds were already killed in the different places of the thana during the last few weeks due to various diseases.

It is alleged that, the situation is being aggravated due to scarcity of medicines in the local veterinary hospitals.

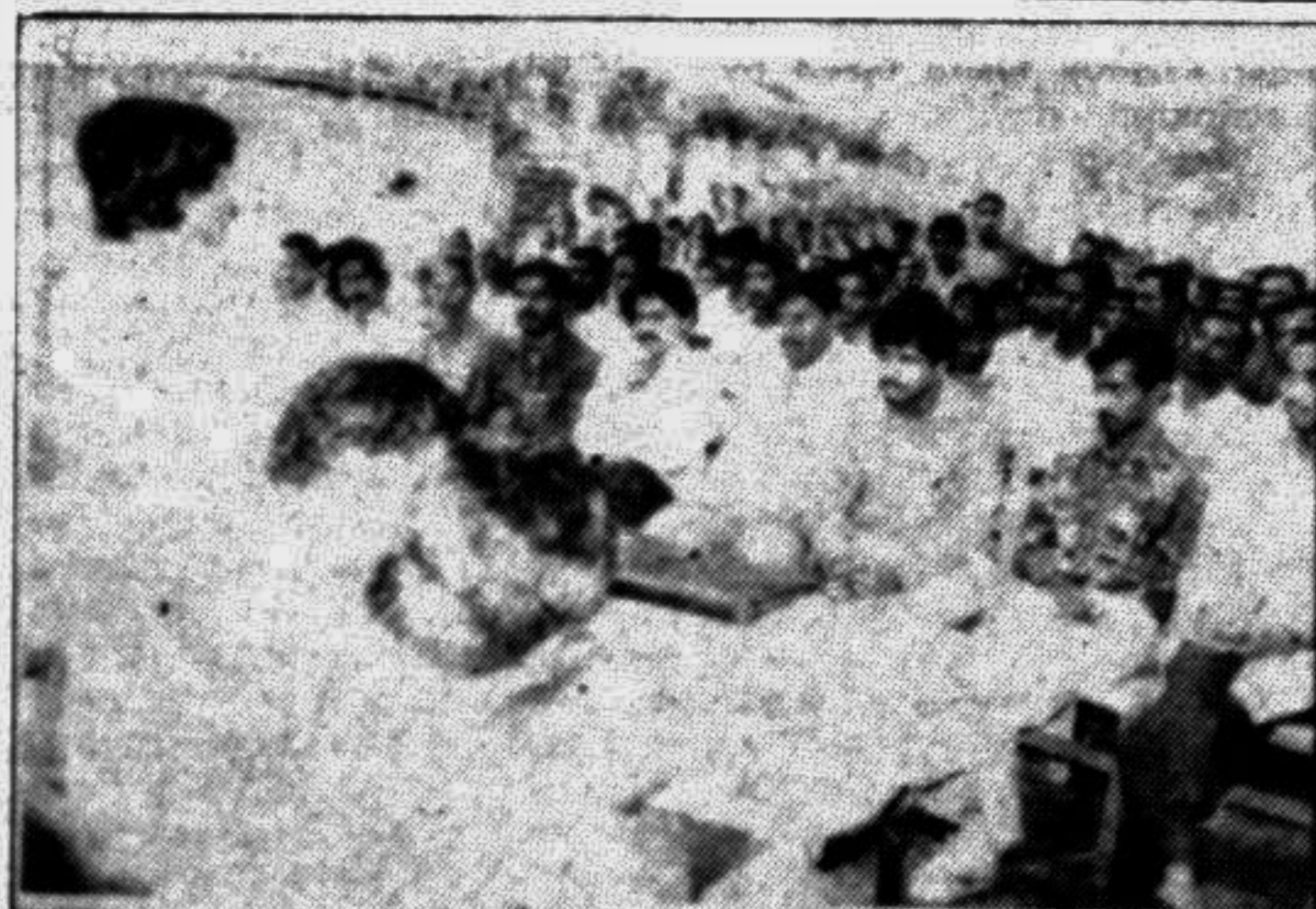
The authorities concerned is urged to look into the matter and do the needful as early as possible to check the diseases.

PABNA Huge quantity of spurious drug seized

Aug 8: Narcotics Control Department recovered huge quantity of spurious drugs worth about Tk 2 crore during last seven months, reports UNB.

Officials sources said the recovered goods included 835 grams of heroin, 8866 bottles of Phensidyl syrup, four kg ganja, 17 litre wine, 192 litre jawa and five litre rectified spirit.

A total of 56 cases were filed and 76 people were arrested in this connection, the sources added.



KURIGRAM: An official of Agriculture Department speaking at a farmers' rally held recently at Fulbari crop demonstration plot. — Star photo

Construction of hospital at Habiganj going on

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Aug 8: The construction work of 100-bed modernised hospital at the southern side of staff quarter's area in Habiganj town at a cost of about Tk 8 crore is going on in full swing.

Sirajul Islam, contractor of Hospital Bhavan's construction work told this correspondent that nearly 80 per cent of the work has already been completed.

It is expected that, the construction work of entire hospital will be completed by December next.

When completed, it will fulfill the long felt demand of the people of Habiganj for better medicare facilities.

It may be mentioned here that finance minister Saifur Rahman inaugurated the construction work last year.

Salehuddin Mahmud, district and sessions judge, Habiganj convicted a person and sentenced him to suffer life imprisonment and also to pay a fine of Tk 5 thousand in default to suffer R1 for another two years on charge of murder.

The convicted person was Annar Ali alias Anwar Ali of vill Talepur under Madabpur thana.

The learned judge delivered his aforesaid judgement in the open court recently.

The prosecution case in brief was that on November 26, 1993 at about 5 pm while one Abdul Malek was returning to his house from Madabpur Bazar on the way accused person attacked him, caused injuries by ironrods killed him.

In this connection deceased's brother Shahid Mia filed case against the accused at Madabpur PS.

Police after investigation submitted charge sheet.

The learned judge after examining 12 witnesses an evidence on record found the accused person guilty for murdering Abdul Malek and sentenced him to suffer life imprisonment.

Advocate Afraz Afgan Choudhury PP conducted the case on behalf of prosecution while advocate Ahsanul Bar Choudhury defended the accused.

Among others, Maniruzzaman Babla, Sheikh Abul Hasanat, Habibur Rahman Hiru, Shah Alam Sahah, Moazzem Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman Mukul, Golam Moein and Asaduzzaman Liton spoke on the occasion.

The discussion was followed by a cultural function participated by the local artistes.



SYLHET: Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament speaking at a meeting to arrange negotiations between the district administration and transport workers owners and to end the 9-day long transport strike in Sunamganj district. A number of MPs, government officials and others attended the meeting. — Star photo