Shortage of bullocks hampers cultivation in Chuadanga dist

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug 15; Acute shortage of bullocks has been prevailing in all the four thanas of Chuadanga district. The thanas are Chuadanga sadar. Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

According to informed sources 40 to 50 per cent farmers have no bullocks to till their land. As a result the genuine farmers can not cultivate their land and they are to keep their land mortgaged to some well-to-do people of the local-

At present a pair of bullocks is being sold at Taka 12,000 to 16,000. As a result it has gone out of the purchasing capacity of the poor and genuine farm-

Finding no other alternatives farmers are compelled to cultivate their land by milch cows. Every day hundreds of bullocks are being slaughtered in the hats and bazars of the district to meet meat crisis as there has been a severe scarcity of fish throughout the district now.

Besides various cattle diseases in an epidemic form claim a good number of cattleheads every year.

The diseases or epidemics cannot be eradicated or controlled due to miserable condition of the veterinary hospitals where acute scarcity of medi-

cine is a common feature. Acute scarcity of fodder has been prevailing in the district which compelled the poor and middle class farmers to sell their cows and bullocks.

Provision of proper grazing fields and arrangements for fodder at cheaper price and necessary measures for combating cattle diseases are now urgently heeded.

Taking advantage of the situation, a section of cow traders is purchasing hundreds of cows and bullocks from the farmers and supplied the same to different places for slaugh-

If this trend continues for an indefinite period cultivation would be hampered badly, it is apprehended.

PHED installs 4,630 tubewells in Barisal circle last fiscal

BARISAL, Aug 15: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) installed 4.630 tubewells in its Barisal circle in the last fiscal year at a cost of Tk 9,50,46,000 for ensuring supply of pure drinking water, reports BSS.

The circle comprises the districts of Barisal, Jhalakati. Pirojpur, Barguna, Bhola, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj. Madaripur and Shariatpur.

According to an official source, 4,278 tubewells were sunk in co-operation with the UNICEF and 352 tubewells with the financial assistance from Saudi Arabia.

Eight hundred and eight deep and 1.255 shallow tubewells were installed in four districts of Barisal, Jhalakati. Pirojpur and Bhola under Barisal division, 884 deep tubewells in two districts of

Patuakhali and Barguna under Patuakhali division and 200 deep and 1,483 shallow tubewells in five districts of Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalgoni, Madaripur and Shariatpur under Faridpur division of the circle, the source added.

Besides the PHED re-sank 1,654 shallow tubewells in Barisal and Faridpur divisions in the period.

Under the programme, PHED installed 264 tara pumps in Rajbari district and 119 shallow shrouded tubewells in Pirojpur district in this fiscal year.

Each deep tubewell incurred an expenditure of Tk 43,000 each, shallow tubewell Taka 5,000 each shallow shrouded tubewell Tk 8,500 and each tara pump Tk.

Some political parties trying to obstruct uplift efforts: Sarwari

TANGAIL, Aug 15: State Minister for Women and yatabadi Mohila Dal, the Children Affairs Begun Sarwari meeting was also addressed, by Rahman said that the present government is implementing various development projects for creating employment opportunities for the poor and unemployed women, reports

She was addressing as chief guest at a women's gathering at the Bashani Hall in the town on Thursday.

The state minister said when the government is materialising poverty alleviation programme in the country. some political parties are try ing to obstruct the development efforts in the name of an unconstitutional issue the care-taker government, she

She urged all to be cautious against the ill motives of those who are trying to create chaos and confusion in the country. Organised by Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Jati-Begum Khurshid Jahan Haq MP, Begum Selima Rahman MP and Begum Rowshan Elahi MP, Begum Anwara Habib MP presided over the meeting. Earlier, Begum Sarwari

Rahman visited Tangail district branches of Shishu Academy, Jatiya Mohila Sangstha and women's affairs office. The state minister also vis-

ited a non-formal literacy centre being run by Tangail Shishu Academy and enjoyed a cultural programme presented by the child artistes of the

She saw for herself the activities of vocational training projects being run by women's affairs office and Jatiya Mohila Sangstha in Tangail

Begum Rahman also visited a project site of women's self employment generation at

Karatia in Tangail.

Unrestrained use of chemical fertilisers decreases productivity

NETRAKONA, Aug 15: Un restrained use of chemical fertiliser is gradually decreasing productivity of agricultural land throughout the district in the last few years, reports

Local farmers said that chemical fertilisers are being used rampantly in all the 10 thanas of the district to grow more crops in every season.

during the last few years. But due to lack of proportionate use of natural manure like cow-dung and green manure fertility of the land is decreasing alarmingly, they added.

An official of Livestock Department said cow-dung is rarely used in land now-a-days following the degeneration of livestock population.

Unofficial statistics show. that every year in an average 10.000 cattleheads die due to various diseases. Besides, use of cow-dung as fuel has increased in the rural areas.

Experts said that increasing side-effects due to unrestrained use of chemical fertillser include less water

holding capacity of agricultural land and existence of increased sulphate and salinity posing a threat to the produc-

tivity of agricultural land. Meanwhile, the authorities concerned have not yet taken any measures to motivate the cultivators to use natural and green manures in land.

Another UNB report says: Rampant use of current nets for eatching fries in different water bodies of the district severely affected pisciculture programme causing concern

among the people. Local people alleged that a section of unscrupulous fishermen are catching fries indiscriminately from canals. beeis, rivers and other water bodies defying government

Various kinds of fries are being sold everyday in huge amount at different hats and bazars of the district, they said

Local people urged authorities concerned to take more effective steps in order to prevent random use of current nets in the district

Project undertaken 25 years back

Taka 93 crore flood protection project yet to be implemented

From Meherullah

JAMALPUR, Aug 15: The flood control and irrigation project under taken about 25 years ago still awaits implementation.

The 93 crore taka project was planned to control flood and explore irrigation facilities in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts, the Bangladesh Water Development Board took the task of implementing the project with World Bank aid.

It is learnt that B M A Abbas, an expert on flood, irrigation and erosion led a team of experts who conducted a survey to select the project site in 1978. Unfortunately, the site, selected for the project work, was illegally occupied and in due course the occupants' settlement grew large and larger who were difficult to evict.

A reliable source said that a proposal was submitted to the concerned ministry for setting up of a BWDB divisional office at Jamalpur to make the implementation work easier. In this connection an official file was opened at BWDB head office at the directive of the late president Ziaur Rahman, However, noting was done to revive the project.

Another proposal was forwarded by then Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur to the BWDB head office on December 23 in 1983 regard-

Rickshaws

handed over

From Our Correspondent

Islamic Foundation Brahmanb-

aria unit distributed three

rickshaws and two rickshaw

vans among the five poor men

source said these three rick-

shaws and two rickshaw vans

were distributed from the fund

of jakat board of the Islamic

Foundation to rehabilitate

Commissioner of Brahmanbaria

district handed over the rick-

shaws and rickshaw vans as a

chief guest at a ceremony or-

ganised by the Islamic Foun-

Foundation Brahmanbaria unit

Md Abdul Haque presided over

the function where officials.

local elites and a cross section

'Govt implementing

development

programmes"

The Bangladesh Nationalist

Party (BNP) government has

been implementing massive

development programme in-

cluding Food For Education.

Free Tuition and Stipend for

girl students, and Compulsory

Primary Education to spread

Deputy Minister for Shi-

pping A B M Zahidul Haq

upheld this while addressing a

number of rallies at Mirertek

and Digambardi areas under

Egaroshindhu and Burudua

unions of Pakuandia thana here

COMILLA, Aug 15: Mothers

of sleepy villages of Chowara

union have now awakened to a

new consciousness to adopt

family planning methods de-

"Husbands are mostly silent

spite prevailing social conser

now in face of our determina-

tion. Some social elders are

still trying to influence us but

we pay no heed to them."

Rokeya Begum told BSS senior

correspondent Shamsul Alam

Beial who visited the area re-

creased face, the 32 years old

mother of three children also

said, village chieftains and

other superiors were encour-

aging married couples to adopt

family planning devices for re-

Rokeya, now using 'Copper-

T who does not wish to have

any more children, is one of

those enthusiastic poor women

who are visiting Chowara

health and mother welfare

centre everyday to take ser-

The centre is located about

12 kilometres from Comilla

town on the east side of

Dhaka-Chittagong highway. A

small sign-board with two pil-

lars directs the way to the

centre in a shabby one-floor

old building on a grassy land

amidst green landscape all

niedical assistant, one family

welfare visitor, one midwife

One medical officer, one

vices on family planning.

ducing the rates of birth.

With a tranquil smile on her

cently.

around.

vatism in rural countryside.

ing education, reports UNB.

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 15

of the people were present.

Deputy Director of Islamic

dation held at its office.

Md Abdul Matin, Deputy

unemployed and distressed.

Islamic Foundation office

of the district recently.

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 15:

ing the project work. The response was not effective at all. The late president Ziaur Rahman formally inaugurated the work on the Brahmaputra Barrage, an internal part of the project near Dewangani thana

town in 1980.

Following an approval, the government had also sanctioned huge amount of money for the project that included Taka one crore for the construction of embankment along the river Naliji in Nalitabari thana. Taka one crore 25 lakh for two regulators and a bridge in Melandah thana, Taka one crore 25 lakh for Gobakhali canal digging in Jamalpur sadar thana. Taka nine crore 33 lakh for old Brahmaputra flood control and rehabilitation project, Taka 10 crore 26 lakh for Jamuna flood control and rehabilitation project in Dewanganj and Sarishabari thanas, Taka 13 crore for flood control embankment along Dawsari river, Taka two crore 77 lakh for Madargani thana town protection project, Taka one crore 50 lakh for Pullahkandi union protection embankment under the Dewangani than, Taka two crore 54 lakh for Dewanganj town protection and rehabilitation project, Taka one crore 25 lakh for construction of a regulator at Kurnajura river

under Sreebodi thana. Taka

hbakehari rehabilitation project, Taka 60 lakh for Nalitabari-Voliakandi canal digging and water supply project. Taka one crore 20 lakh for construction work of control embankment along the river Bhugai under Nalitabari thana, Taka 12 crore for Ranjan Majili control embankment project under Jhenigati thana, Taka one crore 25 lakh for regulator and bridge construction project along the river Mregi under Sherpur thana, Taka one crore 26 lakh for the construction of a regulator come bridge and canal digging project under the Sarishabari thana, Taka two crore 14 lakh for the construction of 77 km long flood control embankment along the Chflakandi river in Nalitabari thana, Taka 20 crore for Brahmaputra river dredg-

one crore 40 lakh for Row-

project. Some of the schemes under the project where imple mented which were included in Food for Works Programme. However, fund shortages prevented the works to be implemented.

ing project and Taka 70 lakh

for Jamalpur town protecting

Under the FWP scheme. 43,486 maunds of wheat were sanctioned for the construction of Brahmaputra flood control embankment (Bahiwa-

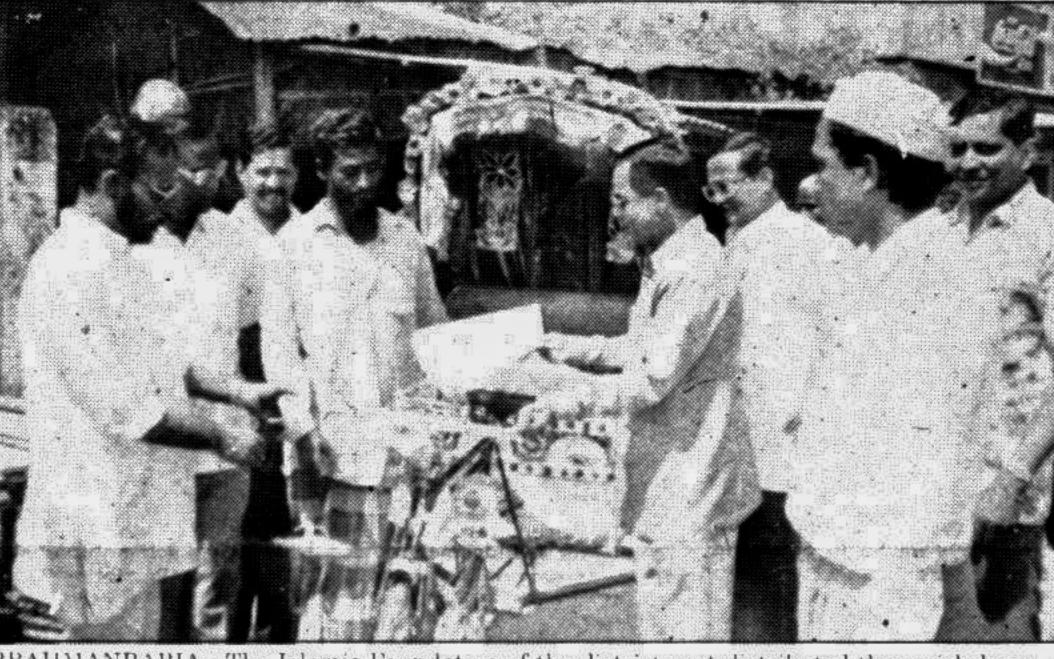
rchar to Duharchar), 2000 maunds of wheat for the excavation at Banner and Sashakhi canals under Jamalpur sadar thana, 30,000 maunds of wheat sanctioned for dredging Mregi river, 170,000 maunds of wheat for the construction of control embankment along the river Chillakhali in Sherpur sadar thana.

A reliable source of the Bangladesh Water Development Board said that the embankment constructed under the project have been threatened by the Brahmaputra erosion. During the last 25 years, about 6000 square feet of area of the embankment were devoured by the rivers causing huge losses to the government.

The sources added owing to non-completion of project erosion and flood continue to threaten Jamalpur and Sherpur districts every years.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board sanctioned Taka 20 crore last year for the construction of the embankment near the Brahmaputra to curb erosion but the measures taken up so far have failed.

An official of the BWDB said. since 1967 the Brahmaputra river has been eroding Dewanganj town engulfing an area of more than three miles in length and one file in breadth.



BRAHMANBARIA. The Islamic Foundation of the district unit distributed three rickshaws and two rickshaw vans among five poor men of the district recently. The Deputy Commissioner of the district. Md Abdul Matin handed over the rickshaws who was the chief gue-t at a simple function arranged on the occasion.

Fishermen in Kishoreganj dist face manifold problems

KISHOREGANJ, Aug Thousands of fishermen in the thirteen thanas of Kishoregani district have been facing manifold problems in carrying on their age old profession due to lack of fund, scarcity of fishing materials like nets, boats, price-hike of inputs and ex-

non-professional fishermen. Kishoregani was once famous for fish production. About 65,000 fishermen living in Itna, Mitamain, Nikli,

and one security guard to-

gether are attending around

50 clients alongwith their

ploitation of fishermen by the

From Our Correspondent Austagram, Kishoreganj sadar,

Bajitpur, Katiadi, Hossainpur, Tarail, Karimganj, Pakundia, Kuliarchar and Bhairab thanas of the district earned their livelihood by fishing in the rivers, beels, canals, haor and ponds. Pisciculture has been affected due to drying up of the water bodies.

 Besides, the fishermen find it very difficult to buy fishing appliances like boats, nets and other things due to fund shortage. They borrow money from the local mahajans at a very high rate of interest.

Some fishermen alleged that they did not get any bank loan for purchasing appliances. The non-professional fishermen have made monopoly over the whole fishing profession causing concern among the genuine fishermen.

The existing law in the country providing for leasing out the beels of jalmahais to the genuine fishermen is not properly applied, it is alleged. Family planning methods: Popularity

District roundup

JHENIDAH

Cocoon production research centre to be set up

Aug 15: One Cocoon Production and Research Centre will be established at Kola village in sadar thana of the district, official sources said. reports UNB. For the project, acquisition

of 25 acres of land has already been completed and construction work of the centre will begin shortly at a cost of Tk one crore. The sources also said after

completion, the project will create large scale employment opportunity for the youths, both male and female.

Meanwhile, a goat firm is being set up at Gopinathpur village in Jhenidah Pourashava at a cost of Tk 60 lakh. The work on the firm is progressing last and is expected to be completed soon.

SATKHIRA

Housewife strangulated to death

Aug 15: A young housewife of a village in sadar thana was allegedly strangulated to death by her husband when she turned down his proposal for second marriage on Friday, police said, reports UNB.

Rizia, 25, wife of Aksed of Baikari village, did not give her consent to Aksed for second marriage. At this, Aksed got furious and strangulated her to death. The autopsy of the body was

performed at Satkhira General Hospital. A case was filed but Asked remained absconding since the

RANGPUR

Husband gets life term for killing wife Aug 15: A man was awarded

life imprisonment on charge of killing his wife, eburt sources said here, reports UNB.

District and Sessions Judge Ibrahim Ali also fined the convict Yeasin Ali Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer another six months rigorous imprisonment in a judgement delivered on Thursday.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that accused Yeasin beat his wife Shahanara Khatun (21) to death over a family feud on August 4 in

After examining the witnesses and records the learned judge found Yeasin guilty.

Public Prosecutor Advocate Abdur Rashid Chowdhury conducted the case on behalf of the state while Advocate Haider Ali defended the ac-

KHAGRACHHARI

Dev works of edn institution progressing

Aug 15: Development and construction works of 29 educational institutions in the district are progressing fast under the Hilly Education Development and Extension Work, reports UNB. Facilities Department of

Ministry of Education is implementing these projects at a cost of about Tk 2.36 crore for the overall improvement of educational sector in the Hill Tract region. The projects include seven

semi pucca primary school buildings, 16 academic buildings of government and nongovernment high schools and academic and science laboratory buildings of Ramgarh Degree College.

BARISAL

Afforestation fair concludes

Aug 15: The three-day af forestation fair-4 was concluded at the central Shahid Minar premises here recently, reports BSS.

Organised jointly by the Barisal District administration and the Forest Department, the inaugural function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Maintaz Uddin It was attended by M A Rashid. divisional commissioner, as chief guest. The function was addressed

among others by Saidul Huq Bhuiyan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), M Atiul Azam, Divisional Forest Officer. Mozammel Hossain, Prof. Mostafa, Hafffur Rahman, Nurul Alâm Farid, S M iqbal, Khan Shahab Uddin, Additional Divisional Commissioner.

SIRAJGANJ

10 robbers arrested

Aug 15: Police arrested ten robbers after a gunfight in the river Jamuna near Gobindapur of Chowhali thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police swooped on the dacoits numbering 20 to 25 while they were committing dacoity by an engine boat. Police and dacoits exchange 50 rounds of gunfire during the fight in which ten robbers were injured.

Police arrested the ten injured dacoits and seize the engine boat while others managed to flee.

Police recovered one rivolver, one pipegun, one ramdao and one round of bullet from the boat. One of the dacoits, Sultan (30), son of Bashiruddin of Madingar, Sibalaya thana in Manikgani district was admitted to Chowhali Health Complex. A case has been filed with

the police. Police said two dacoities

were committed in the same area on August 3.

COMILLA

Indian sarees worth Tk 75 lakh seized Aug 15: A special patrol

party of BDR seized Indian sarees worth Tk 75 lakh from a truck at Padur bazar on Dhaka-Chittagong road last week, customs department said, reports On suspicion, BDR raided

the truck while the smugglers and conductors were loading Indian saree placing it in a cartoon of Bangladeshi garments. The smugglers fled away on the appearance of the jawans. Meanwhile, BDR in a special

drive during the last fortnight seized Indian goods worth of Tk one crore from different Another report adds : Police

arrested a fugitive from

Shijanagar in Kotwali thana last According to police, arrested Rafiq Uddin of Paramtala in Muradnagar thana who, was awarded 18 years rig-

orous imprisonment, was ab sconding for the last 10 years. Moreover, two criminal cases are still pending against him.

PABNA

Businessmen hold rally Wag 15: A group of busi-

nessmen Saturday held a rally in support of their scheduled day long hartal call on August reports UNB. Organised by the Council of,

Pabna District Businessmen Unity, a committee of local businessmen, the rally was held at Indira potti with president of the council Abdus Sattar Biswas in the chair.

It was also addressed by the council members, including general secretary M A Kafi Sarker and joint secretary Abdur Rais Khan. The speakers at the rally

criticised the president of Pabna ' Chamber and demanded enrollment of new members in the Pabna Chamber committee.

Earlier, the council brought out a procession in the town in the evening in support of its day-long strike programme.

BRAHMANBARIA

Foundation of madrasha building laid State Minister for Disaster

Management and Relief Harun-Al-Rashid laid the foundation of Tanki Sadekul Ulum Dakhil Madrasha building here on Thursday, reports UNB. The building will be com-

pleted at a cost of about Tk 9.50 lakh Later the State Minister ad-

dressed a public meeting at Dheli Pataisar High School ground in Kasba thana of the district. Speaking on the occasion.

the state minister said there is no alternative other than BNP to upkeep the independence and sovereignty of the country.

BNP has been running the government with the spirit of Liberation War for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the common people, said an official handout.

Presided over by union parishad chairman Advocate Fakaruddin Ahmed Khan the function was also addressed by Mia Abdul Wazed MP, district BNP secretary Hamidul Hoque Tuku and other local BNP leaders.

The State Minister called upon all to cooperate with the present government in order to continue the development

process.

children every month. Dr Ayesha Nasrin, in-charge of the centre, said, "all possible services including post and ante-natal check-up, child-care, follow-up check-up of family planning methods and advices on immunisation

growing everyday despite hurdles

and breast-feeding were being provided to the clients visiting the centre. She said, "there was no ar rangement, for indoor treat ment or delivery in the centre but the trained midwives visit particular houses on calls to

help give birth." The centre, about helf a kilometre from the Chowara Bazar, is situated in a quiet place from the humdrums of busy life and is considered an ideal location for both clients and the staff.

However, the clients complain of poor cleaning and maintenance inside the centre but they are highly appreciative of services they are get-"The doctor and her staff

members are trying to give us

whatever service, available here," Nilufar Begum, who has been using pills for the last 10 years, said. Dr Nasrin gave a steady trend of Contraceptive Prev alence Rate (CPR) in the area

and said the CPR was now

around 40 per cent. "We hope

it will rise in the coming days," She also said that the use of

pills topped the list of popular contraceptives followed by Intra-Uterine Device (IUD) and Depo-Povera among mothers. The use of condoms is also increasing among the male coun-Over 90 per cent of the

contraceptive users are learnt to have been illiterate and belong to the grass roots level of society. Some persons, accompanying their wives to the centre, said, other eligible couples of the area were showing interest in family planning as they had realised the importance of it at long last.

In the Chowara union, there are eight more satellite family welfare centres under the Chowara health and mother welfare centre. Each satellite centre covers three villages providing reproductive health information, contraceptives and motivation through various

officer, Syed Ansarul Hug said The family welfare visitor services provided by the govgoes to these centres by rotation and counsels the clients on family planning as well as against social taboos that hampers it.

ara centre, described her sad experience of facing adverse criticism against family planning months back. "The critics are a bit soft now in face of defiance of

ernment were being rendered ble ways. Fatema Begum, the only family welfare visitor of Chow-

users of family planning methods," she said with a triumphant smile. However, she termed her

activities in the satellite cen-

tres as a difficult one but excit ing job. She said, eligible couples under each satellite centre assemble on a particular house to listen together. explain them family planning methods and their long term positive impact on social and national life," she added.

Sometimes in order to convince them. Fatema switches on the cassette recorder to make them listen to the popular song on family planning. She gets all logistic support. from those who allow her to hold meetings with interested couples.

Chowara health and mothercare centre is one of the total nine such centres in Kotwali thana of the district run by the ministry of health and family welfare. The thana family planning

to the clients in all best possi-He said, motivational materials, including posters, pamphlets and calendars were also being sent to family welfare centres for distribution among

the clients. "Family planning is a must to fight population boom," he