

Diarrhoea claims two in flood affected areas of Sunamganj

SUNAMGANJ, June 23: Diarrhoea that broke out in the flood affected areas in the district claimed two lives on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Tulai Bibi, 35 of village Gilachara and Tera Mia, 30, of village Bashkhola in Chhatak thana.

Civil Surgeon of the district said medical teams are working in the diarrhoea affected areas to combat the situation. Malaria also broke out in some places of the district.

Meanwhile, the flood situation in the district improved on Thursday as the flood waters started receding from the affected areas.

However, the river Surma was still flowing 24 centimetres above the danger level.

The road communication between Sylhet and Jagannathpur thana remained snapped from Wednesday following collapse of the Megakhali bridge on the road.

Tk 31 crore revenue collected from Kushtia

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, June 23: Kushtia Customs and VAT Department is likely to achieve its target during the 1994-95 fiscal year, according to official source.

The target was fixed at more than Taka 36 crore in four circles. Revenue so far realised upto April, amounts nearly to Taka 31 crore 37 lakh. Rest of the amount will be realised during end of June the source informed.

From July 1994 to April 1995 Taka 21 crore 86 lakh have been realised from bidi factories but the number of bidi factories paying the revenue could not be known. Besides revenue from zarda and gul and jewellery could not be collected.

The four circles under Kushtia customs office are Kushtia, Chuadanga, Darshana and Bheramara.

Apart from that, the department has realised Taka one crore 60 lakh from Mahiskundi checkpoint from cows and buffaloes brought from India during January 1995 to May 1995. Number of cows and buffaloes brought to Bangladesh through this checkpoint was 23127.

CMP undergoes reshuffle to check crimes

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 23: Some transfers have been made in the Chittagong Metropolitan Police in a bid to check crimes in the city, official sources said.

The Officer in Charge (OC) of Kotwali thana, Delwar Hossain, has been transferred to the range area outside the city. He has been replaced by the OC of Doublemooring thana, Mainuddin. This is the third posting of Mainuddin to Kotwali thana.

The OC of Chandgao thana, Obaidul Haq, has been posted to Doublemooring thana and Ohiduzzaman from the city's special branch to Chandgao thana as OC.

Some more changes are likely.

Fish fry worth Tk 5 cr to be released

SHERPUR, June 23: Fish fry worth about Tk 5 crore will be released in the country's unused water bodies during the current year, reports UNB.

State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan disclosed this while inaugurating a fish fry release programme at Nalka thana on Thursday.

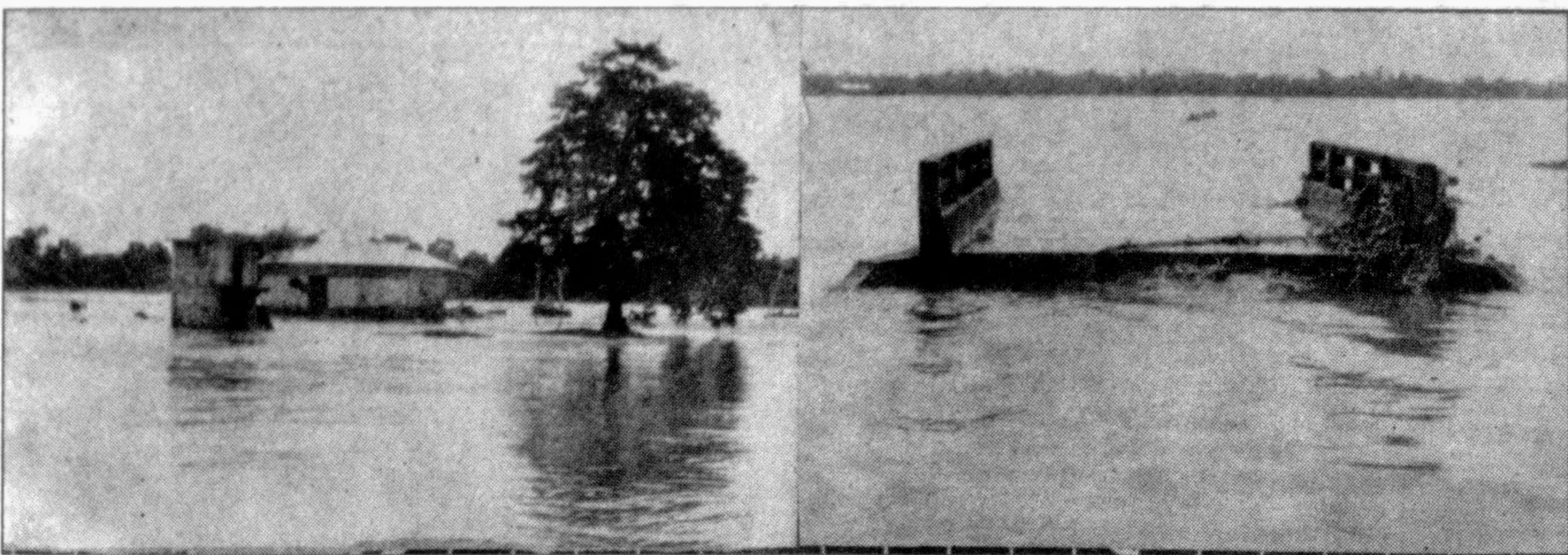
The State Minister hoped the government's step to release fry in the unused water bodies would help meet the growing demand for fish.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haque attended the function as special guest. Deputy Commissioner Ataur Rahman Majumder presided.

Rabies virus attack 70

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, June 23: At least 70 persons were so far infected by rabies virus in three southern districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi and Patuakhali under Barisal division during last one month.

The official sources say Anti Rabies Vaccines (ARV) are not available in these districts. Normally ARVs are distributed by local pourasava authority. But there is no ARV in the pourasavas of these districts.



SYLHET: A primary school (left) at Telikhal of Companyganj thana is submerged by the flood water. *Kutchra* road (right) on both sides of this culvert at Telikhal area in Companyganj thana has been under water for seven days, according to report received on Thursday. — Star photo

Tobacco factory workers vulnerable to TB, cancer

NATORE, June 23: Workers of the tobacco based industries of the 16 northern districts have been suffering from some fatal diseases like TB and cancer due to lack of health care facilities, reports UNB.

According to the Health and Environment authorities, 20 thousand workers of such factories out of the total two lakh have been affected by various diseases, most of whom are women and children.

Concerned officials said, 83 registered tobacco based industries have been manufacturing bidi, cigarette, jarda and gul in the 16 northern districts.

According to them, of the 11,254 women and children working in different factories, 4,000 have been affected by TB. But unofficial sources said over one lakh women and child workers are engaged in all the registered factories.

Besides, according to a survey report, over 100 unregistered tobacco based factories in remote areas of these districts are functioning and more than one lakh workers have been working in these factories.

A total of two lakh workers have been engaged in these legal and illegal factories, of them over 20,000 have been affected by various deadly diseases like TB and cancer. They were affected by the harmful dust of tobacco.

The dust enters into their body through respiration and other means, the survey report said.

There is a law to check up health condition of the workers of these factories after every three months where more than 10 workers are engaged. But these factories do not abide by the rule. No step has yet been taken by the concerned authorities against the violators of this rule, it is learnt.

Absence of medical and environmental checkup for a long time the atmosphere of these factories has turned bad to worse.

One worker, working in such a factory told this correspondent that old molasses used for drying the tobacco leaf is very unhygienic. Different kinds dead insects like cockroach and even rats are found in these molasses.

Besides, these polluted molasses are mixed with tobacco dust to make bidis for the consumers which is injurious to health. There is even no health security measures for the workers while mixing the poisonous molasses. As a result, the workers become the victims of various diseases.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps in this regard.



FARIDPUR: K M Nurul Huda, DC, Faridpur visiting a display of handicrafts organised by National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB) recently. — Star photo

BJP starts anti-Tin Bigha activity

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, June 23: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has geared up in West Bengal, its campaign against the Tin Bigha accord between Bangladesh and India.

According to sources, some 500 BJP activists are being taken around Tin Bigha to launch a sudden raid and fail the third anniversary celebrations of the transfer of the Tin Bigha Corridor to Bangladesh. The anniversary falls on June 26.

After a long struggle Indian authority handed over Tin Bigha Corridor on June 26 in 1992 enabling Bangladesh to establish link with Dhadagram-Angarpota enclave.

Meanwhile, following fresh move of BJP entire 15,000 residents of the enclave got panicky.

New hospital in Natore

NATORE, June 23: Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said that health care system in our country needs considerable development to meet the increasing requirement of the teeming million, reports UNB.

The Minister was inaugurating the newly constructed building of 100-bed Natore Sadar Hospital on Tuesday. State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman was present on the occasion, says a PID handout.

Equipped with modern facilities, the 100-bed Natore Sadar Hospital project involves a cost of Tk seven crore.

In a meeting with the teachers of Rajshahi Medical College, he said, the government has made an effort to improve the academic activities and health facilities in the existing medical colleges with intention to cope with the present world.

the higher authority, the sources further added.

During last one year beginning from January 1, 1994 to December 1994, 44 murders were recorded in six police stations of the district.

Number of injured in clashes and terrorist activities were over two thousand. But the number of arrests were very low in comparison with the crimes committed. Out of total 44 murder cases 21 persons were killed by gunshot while 23 murders were committed using sharp weapons, severe beating or by other means. In Mirpur police station, there are two groups of underground parties believe to have been committing murders one after another when-ever the residents fail to meet their demands.

Out of total 712 cases filed during the year, 11 dacoities, 22 robberies, 42 burglaries, 23 theft, 61 riots, 6 riots involving murder, 40 arms cases, 24 cattle lifting, 24 smuggling, 11 kidnapping and five police harassment cases were recorded in six police stations of the district.

Local people alleged that actual number of incidents will be double the figure recorded with police stations. They also alleged that anti-social activities of the outlawed Sarbahara Party members as well as Biplobi Communist Party members have increased in Mirpur and Khoksa thanas as well as Meherpur district.

Local people alleged that police have failed to control law and order in Mirpur where one after another murders are being committed every month. Whenever local people fail to meet the demand of the outlawed party members some one is killed.

No improvement in power supply system

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, June 23: Erratic power supply aggravated by chronic load-shedding has worsened situation in the district recently.

According to source, power failure, these days is a regular phenomena, breaking all previous records. It occurs any moment and without advance warning. It occurs several times a day and sometimes continues for hours, it was alleged. The condition at night is more miserable. Normally after sunset it is off and nobody can expect power supply restoration before 9 pm. Again, after sunset the play starts. Sometimes, it goes off even after few minutes plunging the whole town in complete darkness.

Complaints received from different areas of the town including Bidhubhuen Road Puratankasha, and Jhenidah Road, there are two lines running side by side.

According to complaints, one line is meant for VIP and other for VOP. Power on VIP line is supplied for limited consumers. Power fails on this line very rarely. If it fails, it is restore within a very short time. It returns on priority basis, however.

According to the source

Frequent load shedding continues

From Our Correspondent
VOP is arranged for general consumers. This line remains cut off many times a day and night and there is no time limit for restoration of power supply.

The line on Bidhubhuen Road deserves to be mentioned in this respect. Local people, have reportedly drawn attention of Resident Engineer, Jessore (PDB) Power Supply to this discrimination urging to extend this exclusive facility to local consumers. But so far there has been no improvement for reasons only known to them.

System loss has been scaled down in the town despite increase in loadshedding. Total number of mills, factories and workshops in the town exceeds two hundred. In BSCIC, Jessore, it is one hundred twenty three. A source on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that thirty six industrial units including, factories, mills and engineering workshop out of them have been laid off some way or other. Rest of the eighty seven units, including saw mills, flour mills, ball pen factories, were running smoothly.

According to another source, Jessore required power supply worth forty megawatt a day. But at present the supply varies from fourteen to twenty two megawatt. But normal supply is only fourteen megawatt, the source added.

According to a report, Power Development Board will not be in a position to step up production to meet the increasing demand before the year 1996 in the district.

Tree plantation campaign '95

Massive Programme undertaken in Rangamati, Rajshahi, Kushtia

From Our Correspondent
BORAICHHARI (Rangamati), June 23: The Boraichhari Forest Multiple Nursery, an unit of Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division in Rangamati Forest Circle has started distribution of seedlings of different species of both timber and fruit-bearing trees formally from June 1 last among the interested planters at a very nominal prices, the officials said.

The Boraichhari Nursery has so far raised one lakh eighty thousand seedlings of different valuable species including fruit-bearing trees alongwith ten thousand stamps of teak for distribution among the interested planters is the on-going plantation season, said Abdul Zaher Chowdhury, Station Officer of Boraichhari Cheek and Tolls Station and in-charge of the nursery.

The improved variety of seedlings of mehuguni, gamar, garjan, champful, chapalish, chikrashi, telshur, dhaktjam, neem, sal, raintree, krishnachura, ucalptus, shilkorat, bohun, debdlaru, care, bamboo etc as well as kantal, narikel, supari, amra, dalim, jalpai, papaya, jambura, ata, peur etc of fruit-bearing trees are available, he said.

Besides, the private and individual planters, schools, madrasahs, colleges, as well as different government and non-government agencies carry out their afforestation programme with the seedlings of this nursery. The Local Government Council of Rangamati Hill District is a major buyer of seedlings, the sources added.

Our Rajshahi correspondent adds: Rajshahi City Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu had urged the people to transform the tree plantation programme into a social movement.

We have no alternative to tree plantation to protect our motherland from desertification, he said. The mayor was addressing a big rally on the inaugural occasion of the tree plantation programme '95 of Rajshahi City Corporation.

Presided over by Chief Executive Officer Abul Kasem, the rally was also addressed by the Chairman of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank and minister Emran Ali Sarkar.

Chairman of the RCC Committee for Health a Family Planning Zahidul Islam Zahid, Health officer Dr Rizvi Sultan, Divisional Forest Officer Abdul Mutaleb.

The City Mayor said that unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India at Farakka was the main cause behind the desertification of the northern and southern regions of the country. To resist the calamity, we must try to resolve the Farakka problem by any means and at the same time we should plant a huge member of trees to retain surface water in the canals, ponds and beels, he said.

A massive programme of planting 5 lakhs saplings in the corporation area in five years to make Rajshahi a green city of education has been taken, the mayor said. The Forest Department and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation is giving assistance to implement the programme, he said.

The Mayor also distributed "Mayor Trophy" among 17 persons and organisations for their contributions to the tree plantation programme and 19 persons and organisations for best performance in National Immunization Day on March 16 and April 16.

Later, he led a ground procession, that carried festoons, placards, banners and flags.

Hilsha craze

PATUAKHALI, June 23: Catching of hilsha in the Bay of Bengal and other rivers of the region has began in top gear, reports UNB.

Local people said the Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Barisal, Madaripur, Manpara, Bishkhali, Andermanik, Payra, Lalalaha Karkhara, Kazal, Sugandha, Kirtinkhola, Manpara, Tazumuddin and Meghna have taken a new look as hundreds of boats and trawlers are engaged in catching hilsha.

The Bay of Bengal is overwhelmed by the presence of fishermen as it abounds with hilshas, said a hilsha trader.

He said the traders this year are seen more interested in investing money in hilsha trading as the demand for the fish is higher.

A modern hospital lacks many facilities

From Our Correspondent
MEHERPUR, June 23: The modern sadar hospital in the district is facing various problems. It has been facing shortage of medicine for quite a long period. Both indoor and outdoor patients are being served with prescriptions only asking them to seek treatment elsewhere. The indoor patients were given treatment with medicines purchased by patients themselves. Besides, they have to purchase all other necessary goods even required for minor operations.

The patients are being deprived of the services from any Gynaecologist for the last one year, it was alleged.

There is no experienced anaesthetist in the hospital as a result operations are being carried out in great risks. The autoclave machines by which instruments are sterilised often goes out of order causing serious inconveniences, it was learnt.

Surprisingly there is no blood bank in the hospital and it becomes impossible for patients to procure blood in time from outside. There is no doctor for ENT department, as a result the patients are being deprived of the treatment.

The hospital has 50 beds but rush of patients is high. It has to accommodate 100 patients with extra beds on the floor, others go back disappointed although they need admission.

According to another source, Jessore required power supply worth forty megawatt a day. But at present the supply varies from fourteen to twenty two megawatt. But normal supply is only fourteen megawatt, the source added.

According to a report, Power Development Board will not be in a position to step up production to meet the increasing demand before the year 1996 in the district.

Law, order situation in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, June 23: Law and order situation of the district was reviewed in a meeting held recently with Deputy Commissioner Md Nazrul Islam in the chair. The meeting was also attended by Police Super, Additional District Magistrate, all Thana Nirbahi officers, other members of the committee and other police officers of the respective police stations.

The Deputy Commissioner apprised the members of the law enforcing agencies for being able to control the grave law and order situation of the people of the district faced in the second part of May particularly in Daulatpur and Bheramara thanas. He said that series of dacoities committed in the areas have been stopped now as a result of prompt police action and arrest of one Shahidul Islam, a gang leader of the dacoits together with several others and recovery of huge arms and ammunition. On the confession of the accused Shahidul Islam who left Naval headquarter with arms and committing series of crimes, police recovered arms from his Dhaka residence.

Superintendent of Police said that law and order has been improved and lamented that small number of police force are not capable to control four lakh people residing the Daulatpur thana. Moreover, police has no transport to reach every corner of the thana immediately on call. He, however, assured the members that all steps are being taken to prevent further crimes and all the criminals would be brought to books within a very short time and sought cooperation of the people of the locality.

The meeting also discussed about the murder of Amirul

DC praises police actions to be able to curb crime, residents allege ignorance of police force

leased and gone unpunished for want of evidence and witnesses. People are afraid of standing as witnesses in the court for apprehension of being victims of terrorism by those hardcore criminals in future.

The meeting discussed the crimes committed in six thanas of the district and it was disclosed that 95 crimes were committed in the month of May. Of those crimes six were dacoity, one hijacking, 2 burglary, 3 theft, 5 murder, one riot, 3 murder with riot, 5 illegal arms cases, 3 smuggling and other crimes were 65.

In the month of April number of crimes was 104. In March the number was 107.

The meeting also discussed about the murder of Amirul

police refused to mention the names of those persons who have been abducted. Local people blamed that police was found inactive in this respect. They have failed to take any action for release of those abducted.

A local political leader on condition of anonymity alleged that law and order will further deteriorate as the ruling party reportedly has decided to release criminals now in jail in order to allow them to join BNP and work for winning in the coming election expected to take place soon. The sources further disclosed that these miscreants now undergoing detention are expected to join BNP.

The District Administration has nothing to do but release them as per order of

the higher authority, the sources further added.