Flood situation worsens in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent IAMALPUR, June 24: Incessant rainfall and onrush of flood water from Indian Gara Hills further aggravated erosion by the river Jamuna and Brahmaputra and deteriorated the flood situation in the district

The Jamuna swelled by 105 centimetre during the last three days till Monday. The river is flowing only 12 cm below the danger level. Rainfall was recorded at 381 cm in the district during the period.

With the rise of the water level the erosion of the Jamuna has further intensified. Some 200 families have been rendered homeless in Islampur and Madargani thanas in the last seven days.

The worst affected thanas are Melandah, Dewangani, Sarishabary and Jamalpur

railway ferry ghat has been devoured by Jamuna in the last 72 hours from June 16.

Meanwhile flood water poured in through several breaches of flood control embankment in Madarganj and Dewanganj thanas inundating about 135 villages in the dis-

Standing crops including jute, paddy, and other robi crops on about 5000 acres of land have gone under water in both the districts of Sylhet the Islampur, Dewangani, Madarganj and Jamalpur Sadar

kutcha road in different areas of the district is badly affected by the heavy downpur, according to official sources.

Student leader arrested

From CHT Correspondent KHAGRACHHARI, June 24 Khagrachhari Kotwali police rounded up the president o Khagrachhari district unit o Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) recently from the town al legedly for assaulting Councillor of the Local Government Council of Khagrachhari Hill District (LGCKHD on lune 14.

Pradipan Khiska, 22, a student of local college, the president of the Khagrachhari district unit of PCP was arrested by the Officer-in-Charge o Khagrachhari Kotwali police station, Mohammad Ali, assisted by Sub-Inspector Saiful with a contingent of constable from infront of Khabongpurin Road in municipality area. Police sources said, Pradipan was allegedly involved in assaulting Mintoo Bikash Chakma, Councillor of LGCKHD and snatching cash and kinds from rein as well as burning his motor-bike on June 14 at Terachhora of Panchhari thana.

Later, the activists of PCP and Pahari Gano Parishad PGP) brought out a procession in the town and held a protest meeting at Panchhari Rickshaw stand in the town, chaired by Pradip Lal Cha-kma, President of the local unit of PGP.

12 receive bullet injuries as two groups of KMP exchange fire

From CHT Correspondent CHANDRAGHONA

(Rangamati), June 24: On the issue of Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) election, a gunbattle between the supporters of two workers organisation in the Karnafuli Paper Mills Ltd. which lasted for two hours from 5:00 to 7:00 recently left 12 workers bullet wounded.

One seriously injured worker with multiple and grievous bullet wounds was seat to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the others were admitted in to KPM and Christian Mission Hospital for treatment, KPM sources said. Both the sides used heavy

fire arms witnesses alleged. The one month long irritation and sporadic clashes be tween the supporters of KPM workers union and KPM employees union on the issue of CBA election originated the gun-battle, the sources ob served. The reluctant role of the police on maintaining of law and order situation was widely responsible for the gunbattle, sources alleged.

Belal, Jahangir, Asgar, Mohammad Ali of KPM workers, union and Mafiz, Nayon, Selim, Waziullah, Prafullah and others of KPM employees union sustained bullet injures. Both the parties lodged cases with Kaptai thana police accusing each other.

Two electrocuted

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANI, June 24: Two children were electrocuted in village Mamudpur of sadar thana on Wednesday.

The victims were identified as Akli Khatun, 10 and Roni, 1. They came in contact with a faulty wire connection of their residence and died on Flood waters in Sylhet start receding

Erosion in Pabna affects over two lakh people

From Iqbal Siddique

Flood in two big rivers on both sides of Pabna caused severe losses of properties affecting several thousands of people. About 20,000 people were rendered homeless. Erosion in the district also damaged huge amount of crops in the district. In the meantime, most of the flood affected people in Sylhet district have no place to live as their houses were found totally unfit for use.

SYLHET, June 24: The overall flood situation in Sylhet regain began to improve as flood waters started to recede from the different affected areas. However, flood waters were still remaining in many areas causing much trouble for the people in gen-A portion of Bahadurabad eral. The rivers were also flowing above the dangerlevels at different points.

Amid a sign of slight improvement of the situation, thousands of people who took shelter in the Relief centres started returning to their homes in many areas. But, the seriously damaged communication system caused trouble for them, even in the remote areas. Thousands of people have become homeless in and Sunamgani. The badly hit areas were in Gowainghat, Jaintapur, and Companyganj Newly built 1500 km in Sylhet and Tahirpur, Chhatak, Doarabazar, Sunamganj sadar, Biswambharpur and Derai thanas of Sunamganj district.

The on rush of waters have washed away at least 25 villages in different thanas. Most of the affected people, stunned by the sudden attack of the flash flood which continued for over a week and took away all their belongings, now need soft-term loans for construction of their welling houses.

The road communication of Jaintapur thana with the district headquarters resumed Thursday, though the vehicles have to face a lot of problem during the whole journey due to the worn-out condition of the road. A number of holes and ditches have developed at many points by the strong waves of flood waters during the week. The vehicles began playing on the Sylhet-Gowainghat road also from Thursday, though they have to end their journey about one mile ahead of the thana headquarters. The floods have also caused serious damages to this road

In the meantime, the thana headquarters of Companygani is still lying snapped as the road has totally become unusable for traffic move-

ment. Most of the returning people are now finding their dwellings totally unfit for living, as the houses have



PABNA: Abdul Kader, a

have so far claimed over 50 lives, in the region. Many others were also reportedly missing.

Our Correspondent in Pabna who has recently visited some of the flood, erosion affected areas sent us the following reports:

Flood in two big rivers on both the sides of Pabna district -Padma in the south and Jamuna in the east - caused severe losses of properties and brought severe miseries to lakhs of people. The number of affected people, according flood victim from Faridpur to an unofficial estimate, al-

ally washed away and most of its inhabitants leaving their houses, took shelter either on WAPDA embankments or in the houses of their relations or friends outside the union. Masumdia, Nakalia and Jatshakhini unions have also been affected.

The Nakalia bazaar known popularly as Nakalia river port, has faced severe erosion in the river Jamuna. Many shops and vast portions of the bazaar have already been grabbed by the river Ja-

The Nagorbari ferryghat was also badly affected. Two of the three ferry-ghats have Thana helplessly waits for ready reached over two lakh been washed away. Only one - Star photo of whom nearly 20,000 were ferry-ghat is now in working



PABNA. A bamboo-pool on river Atrai in Bhangoora is almost inundated by flood waters. Although, the pool is very often used it is temporarily suspended for use in fear that someone may drown. - Star photo

The relief materials given among the flood victims in the different affected thanas of Sylhet, Sunamgani and Moulvibazar districts are too meagre to meet the huge requirement of the thousands of people. The relief operation started by the different private organisations and personalities including the political leaders was also said to be unsatisfactory.

Official sources informed that, a total of 820 metric tonnes of rice, 625 metric tonnes of wheat, 2000 pieces of saries, 2000 pieces of lungies, 250 tins of biscuits and a cash amount of Taka 8 lakh 50 thousand have been given by the Ministry of Relief for

SYLHET: Some minor boys and girls looking after their

cattles on the Sylhet Tamabil road, where they have taken

refuge after their dwellings were flooded.

been battered by the devas-

also attributed to the situa-

tion. People, even those who

were financially solvent, are

also finding difficulties in

living. Acute scarcity of

drinking water has posed a se-

rious problem in the villages

of flood-hit thanas as most of

the tubewells have become

inoperative. Scarcity of fire-

wood and Kerosine oil has

also emerged as an additional

problem for the villagers.

After all, the disrupted com-

munication has mounted the

sufferings of lakhs of flood-hit

flood waters cases of In-

fluenza, Diarrhoea and other

water-borne diseases have

ent areas. The diseases have

already claimed at least ten

people in Companygani, Jain-

tapur and Gowainghat thanas

of Sylhet and Chhatak,

Doarabazar, Sunamgani sadar

and Tahirpur thanas under

Sunamgani district during the

last three days. Acute scarcity

of necessary medicines and

absence of services of the

health workers and officials

raised the sufferings of the

people in general

been reported from the differ-

With the recession of the

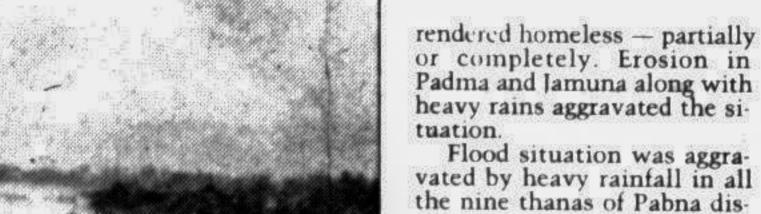
people in the affected areas.

Acute scarcity of food has

tating floods.



PABNA. Huge portion of Demra-Faridpur road has been washed away by heavy rain. - Star photo



- Star photo

the 21 affected thanas of Syl-

het, Moulvibazar and Sunam-

caused by the onrush of flood

waters from the hilly areas

across the Indian borders

coupled with the heavy rains

The devastating floods

gani districts.

Flood situation was aggravated by heavy rainfall in all the nine thanas of Pabna district recently - causing severe damages to the standing crops like aus and aman paddy, jute, vegetables like patal, green chilli etc. Summer vegetables have faced severe destruction and their supply in the markets fell considerably and their prices also were rising abnormally.

Flood in the above two rivers has inundated vast areas of land in Pabna sadar, Sauthia, Sujanagar, Bera, Faridpur and Bhangoora thanas leaving only three thanas, Ishurdi, Atgharia and Chatmohar of this district untouched

In Bera, Sujanagar and Bhangoora thanas, about 20,000 people become marooned Dhalarchar union under Bera thana has been litercondition. Repair-works and shifting of these two ghats have been taken up on an emergency basis and it is expected that the works would be completed soon.

Meanwhile, ferry services have been disrupted. Several hundreds of trucks loads with perishable fruits (mango, banana etc.) and vegetables bound for Dhaka were found standing on the highway and places around the ferry terminal at Nagorbari. The entire road communication between Dhaka and northern districts stand disrupted for last four

Nearly 200 fertiliser and salt godowns at Nagorbari have been inundated by rainwater recently.

Throughout Pabna district many rural katcha roads have been damaged which many educational institutions, mosques, hats and bazaars have been inundated due to both flood and heavy rainfall.

No relief work has been undertaken as vet.



SYLHET Whenever a boat reaches Companyganj, people including children gather around it in the hope of getting some relief. The photo has been taken from Shibpur. - Star photo

Drilling at Shahbajpur gas well to start in July

PATUAKHALI, June 24: The drilling of Shahbajpur gas well, 17 km from the town, is expected to resume in the next month after 14 months of its suspension, reports

The work under Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company had been suspended at the end of April, last year, due to upward water pressure after drilling upto 3630 metres.

Local sources said, to avoid further disaster, at least 250 tons of white cement were poured into the pipe for sealing the borehole, other wise the entire area would go under water causing extensive inundation. Meanwhile, arrangement

and preparation for the second time drilling is nearing completion. According to mining engineers gas deposit may be found at 34000 metres deep in underground. According to local people,

gas was first traced in the locality about 20 years ago, but the project was started in 1989 after first survey was done in 1984.

The search of gas deposit at Shahbajpur in Borhanuddin thana was first started in 1993. So far, Taka 26 crore have been spent in this proiect and about Tk 15 crore will be needed for the second time drilling and exploration in the area, informed sources

Examinee stabbed to death

KUSHTIA, June 24: A Kamil examinee of Kushtia Aliya Madrasha was allegedly stabbed to death by another examinee at the madrasha hostel on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said, the victim Sharif, a first year student of the Department of Arabic Language and Literature of Islamic University, was stabbed mercilessly by Ahmed Ali during an altercation at the hostel.

Sharif was rushed to Kushtia Sadar Hospital where he succumbed after an hour.

Police arrested Ahmed Ali with a knife from the hostel immediately after the incident. The body was sent to the Kushtia Sadar Hospital for

A case has been filed with the police.

One dies of hydrophobia in Barisal

BARISAL, June 24: Fifteen people were bitten by pye dogs in the pourasava and its adjoining areas during the last three weeks, reports UNB.

Officials said Swaraswat Mallick, a five-year old girl died of hydrophobia in Mehediganj. At least 50 people are feared to be attacked by the disease. They alleged that Anti-Ra-

bies Vaccine (ARV), which is essential for the patients bitten by the pye-dogs, is not available in the markets.

Bamboo clusters on wane in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, June 24: Production of bamboo is declining in the district due to the lack of proper management of this resource, reports UNB.

There are hundreds of bamboo clusters in this district but most of them are now in decline due to absence of proper nursing.

The owners of the clusters are ignorant of the methods of plantation. Moreover, they are lifting the roots at random to sell in the market as fuel. On the other hand, no ef

forts are being taken by the concerned officials to plant bamboo in this areas. As a result, acute scarcity of bamboo is prevailing in the district and consequently the price of bamboo has increased several Agriculture experts said

proper nursing and planned plantation will enable of a bamboo plant to grow at least 20 tender plants. But at present only two to three tender plants grow in a year. The production of bamboo

is not increasing in proportion with the growing needs which has created adverse effect on both labourers and bamboo based cottage industries. About 95 per cent of the

houses of rural areas are kutcha and bamboo is widely used in the construction of these houses. But the repair of these

houses is being hampered badly for want of bamboo. Traditional cottage industries depending on bamboo are also facing extinction.

Shortage of transport

Mangoes worth Tk 20cr may be wasted

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 24: Shortage of transport facilities may result in wastage of mangoes worth about Tk. 20 crore in Chapainawabganj during the current mango

harvesting season.

It is the pick of harvesting season and the cultivators are busy harvesting mangoes from their gardens. Cart loads of mangoes are rushing to the markets. The mango traders cannot keep up with the flow of supply. They cannot arrange adequate number of trucks or other vehicles to transport mangoes to other parts of the country.

"Most of our 4000 strong truck force are engaged in carrying stones for Jamuna Bridge from Sona Masjid to Sirajganj. Someone busy covering cows from the markets and custom corridors of the border areas, said a businessman.

All the rivers and canals of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj have been either dried up

or they are not navigable. The railway communication in Chapainawabgani is very poor. So there is no alternative to road communication to transport mangoes from here.

Some truck owners told this correspondent that transportation of stones from Sona Masjid land port to Sirajganj or carriage of cows from the custom points to Nagarbari Ferry ghat earns them Tk 6000 per trip and take only one day. On the other hand, a truck earns only Tk. 8000 to Tk 10,000 per trip carrying mango from Chapainawabgani to Dhaka and Chittagong and the trip takes at least four

Meanwhile, some miscreants and dishonest police personnel are allegedly collecting tolls from the mango traders at different points on the way. The traders are forced to pay at least Tk. 2000 per truck as toll, the traders said.

People dying without any medicare facilities in inaccessible areas of CHT

From CHT Correspondent

24: Diarrhoea has claimed 13 tribals and attacked over 300 people in the inaccessible hamlet, Fulupara in Thansi thanas some 172 kilometers from the district head quarters within three days almost without any medicare services, local leaders alleged. The civil surgeon of Ban-

darban Hill District admitted the death of five and identified than as Monijon Tripura 60, Doyati Tripura 25, Nehati Tripura 12, Ronabi Tripura 11 and Laluonon Khan Bom 37 of village Jalupara in Thansi thana of the district.

Admitting the break out of diarrhea and demise of people, the Civil Surgeon told this correspondent over telephone that a two-member medical team has been sent in the affected area.

The only medical officer, ferers alleged.

THANSI (Bandarban), June who was working in Thansi thana hospital, sent on deputation to Balipara BDR zone leaving the hospital 'doctorless', depriving the people of malaria and diarrhoea-prone thana from the medicare services. The poor and helpless people are dying unattended, uncared and without any medicare services, the affected people alleged. They ruled out arrival of any medical team in the area in any time. Local leaders apprehended

that the diarrhoea may turn to an epidemic from since no medical professionals working there to contain the disease. The acute and unprecedented scarcity of drinking water made a havoc in the district causing out break of diarrhoea and other stomach as well as skin related diseases, the suf-

Faridpur Sugar Mills records 100 pc loan recovery

FARIDPUR, June 24: Faridpur Sugar Mills has become the highest sugar producer during the 1994-95 season since it went into operation in 1977, reports UNB. According to official

sources, the mill produced 16,829 metric tons of sugar during 188 days of the crushing season ended on May 5. The quantity was 113.83 per cent above the During the period loan

worth Tk 2.75 crore was also realised from the loanee farmers of the mills, the sources said. The loan recovery which is 100 per cent is also highest in the season. An amount of Tk four

crore was paid to the government as VAT and Tk one crore was sanctioned for development of educational institutions, construction and repair of roads, bridges and culverts in the mill areas.

After repaying all the dues and expenditures, the mill is expected to earn a profit of Tk 2.50 crore during the season which is the highest during the last five years.

The mill produced sugar utilizing 168.29 per cent ability above the production capacity of the mills which was ever highest of the 17 years of its inception.

Kazi Atiqur Rahman, General Manager of the mills, told UNB that with a view to earning more profit from this public sector industry and extending benefits to another 6000 farmers including the present ones, the Balancing, Modernisation, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) for increasing the sugar production capacity to 15,000 tons from the present production capacity of 10,000 tons has become

A proposal in this regard has already been submitted to the concerned ministry and awaiting its approval, he said.

After BMRE the crushing days of the mills would be reduced and thus other allied expenditures would be decreased which would help earning more profit, he added.

Budget '95-96: Reaction from Kushtia

of political party have expressed their mixed reactions over the budget for fiscal year 1995-96 placed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in present government which will the parliament recently. Anwar Ali, District Secre-

tary, of Awami League said that this budget was placed to influence next parliament election and will fail to solve the basic problems of the people. The budget will fail to fulfil the needs of farmers, workers, day labourers. The demands of the common man have been ignored in the budget, Anwar Ali added

Syed Masud Rumy, former MP and district coordinator and former district president of BNP, hailed the budget and termed it as pragmatic and suited to the needs of the time. No new taxes has been imposed in the new budget and the common people will be benefited by this budget, he said.

Prof Shahidul Islam, district President, of BNP, termed the budget as people oriented and said that this budget will help boost po verty alleviation programmes and will be helpful for educ-ation sector.

latiatabadi Chhatra Da

realistic and people oriented. Highest allocation in education sector shown in the budget was another milestone of the go a long way in nation building activities. Chhatra Dal Kushtia University College branch brought out a procession in support of the budget. The procession paraded the campus. Comrade Abdullah-Al

Mamun (Taju), district coordinator of Bangladesh Samajtantric Dal, while expressing his reaction said that the budget has reflected the free market economy and will help build up market of other countries. Our own industries will be ruined while foreign countries will be benefited by occupying our market, he

Chamber of Commerce, while expressing his sentiments said that it has failed to bring any benefit to the weaver community. Most of the people of the district are weavers by profession and they have failed to compete in selling their products with the Indian goods and most of the wea-vers have left their profession.

Vice-President, Kushtia

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, June 24: Differ- leaders have hailed the budget ent trade organisations, leaders and termed it as well-balanced,