

One jailed for life for killing

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 20: A husband was awarded jail term for life for allegedly killing his wife at village Juhuli in Mohespur thana of the district by the Special Tribunal Judge TIM Nurunnabi Chowdhury recently.

The case was in brief that Sariful Islam of village Jukuli allegedly killed his wife Jahana Khatun, 20, on 4.7.93 by noosing her throat and spread pesticides in her mouth. Then Sariful Islam told his wife committed suicide by taking pesticides. Having been informed police lodged a case against Sariful Islam and submitted chargesheet.

Later the Special Tribunal Judge after hearing from 10 witnesses awarded the accused RI for life term and fined Taka 30,000.

According to another report, the additional Special Judge of Jhenidah Aziz Khalifa awarded 3 years RI and fined Taka five thousand to Ajit Halder for his alleged involvement in smuggling Indian Ruhi fish under special power act recently, it is learnt.

The prosecution is in brief that BDR personnel on early morning of 21.1.93 arrested the accused Ajit Halder and recovered Indian Ruhi fish worth Taka 40,000 at village Kusumpur in Mohespur thana of the district.

79 cases of suicide recorded in seven months

MAGURA, Aug 20: A total of 79 people including 50 women committed suicide in Sadar thana of the district during last seven months, police said, says UNB.

According to police, the incidents took place during January-July this year. Of them, 22 men and 31 women committed suicide by taking poison while 19 women and 7 men killed themselves by hanging.

Family sources said failure in love, demand for dowry, torture, family feud and poverty were the reasons behind the suicide.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Mosquito nets for poor people in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 20: Local Government has taken up a programme to distribute mosquito nets among the poor people in malaria affected areas of the district, reports UNB.

The programme has taken up on the demand of local people and health department. Malaria disease broke out in an alarming state in the district due to biting by a kind of mosquito called Felsiferum. Samiran Dewan said Tk 3 lakh has already been sanctioned for purchasing mosquito nets.

These nets are being distributed after disinfecting in the anti-mosquito insecticide.

Body buried without informing family, tense situation prevailing

From CHT Correspondent

THANCHI (Bandarban), Aug 20: A tense situation is prevailing among the workers in Thanchi following the burial of a worker of a construction firm without informing the relatives of the deceased who was drowned in the Shankha river recently, workers and local leaders alleged.

Mizan, 30, a construction worker who was working in Thanchi hospital construction works, was drowned in the Shankha river on August 9 while having his bath and was found missing. On August 11 his body was found floating and the management of the construction firm, the employer of Mizan, buried his body hurriedly in camera creating a displeasure among the workers. Messrs Engineers and Nirmata Limited has been carrying out the construction works, sources said.

When contacted, Rafiqul Islam the project manager of the firm said as the identity and address of the deceased was not available, his body was buried here instead of sending to his village home.

Meanwhile, workers working there further alleged that earlier 5 to 6 workers who died of malaria and diarrhoea were also buried in camera. The unwilling workers are also being forced to work in the hospital construction, they added.

Flood destroys huge aman seedlings in Gaibandha

From KM Rezaul Haque

GAIBANDHA, Aug 20: Flash flood for the third time hit Gaibandha during this current rainy season. Incessant rainfall and onrush of water from up stream engulfed vast tract of seven thanas in the district trapping thousands of villagers in flood waters.

Flood water destroyed recently transplanted aman seedlings in different areas of seven thanas. All the seedbeds in flood affected areas went under water and were damaged completely. The farmers, before the existing flood invested their last penny procuring seedlings from far-flung areas at a exorbitant price. But all in vain, the planted aman seedlings went under three to four feet water which were ultimately damaged within the next few days.

According to the flood forecast, heavy downpour began here in Gaibandha since August 12 and within the next three days the river Brahmaputra, Ghagot, Teesta and Karotoa were in spate. The overflowing water engulfed crop land, surrounding and town areas. The flood situation worsened further on August 15 and as the water level continued to rise till August 18. Meanwhile flood water entered parts of Gaibandha pourashava including Bridge Road, Purbopara, David Co para, Sandherpara overflowing the bank of river Ghagot.

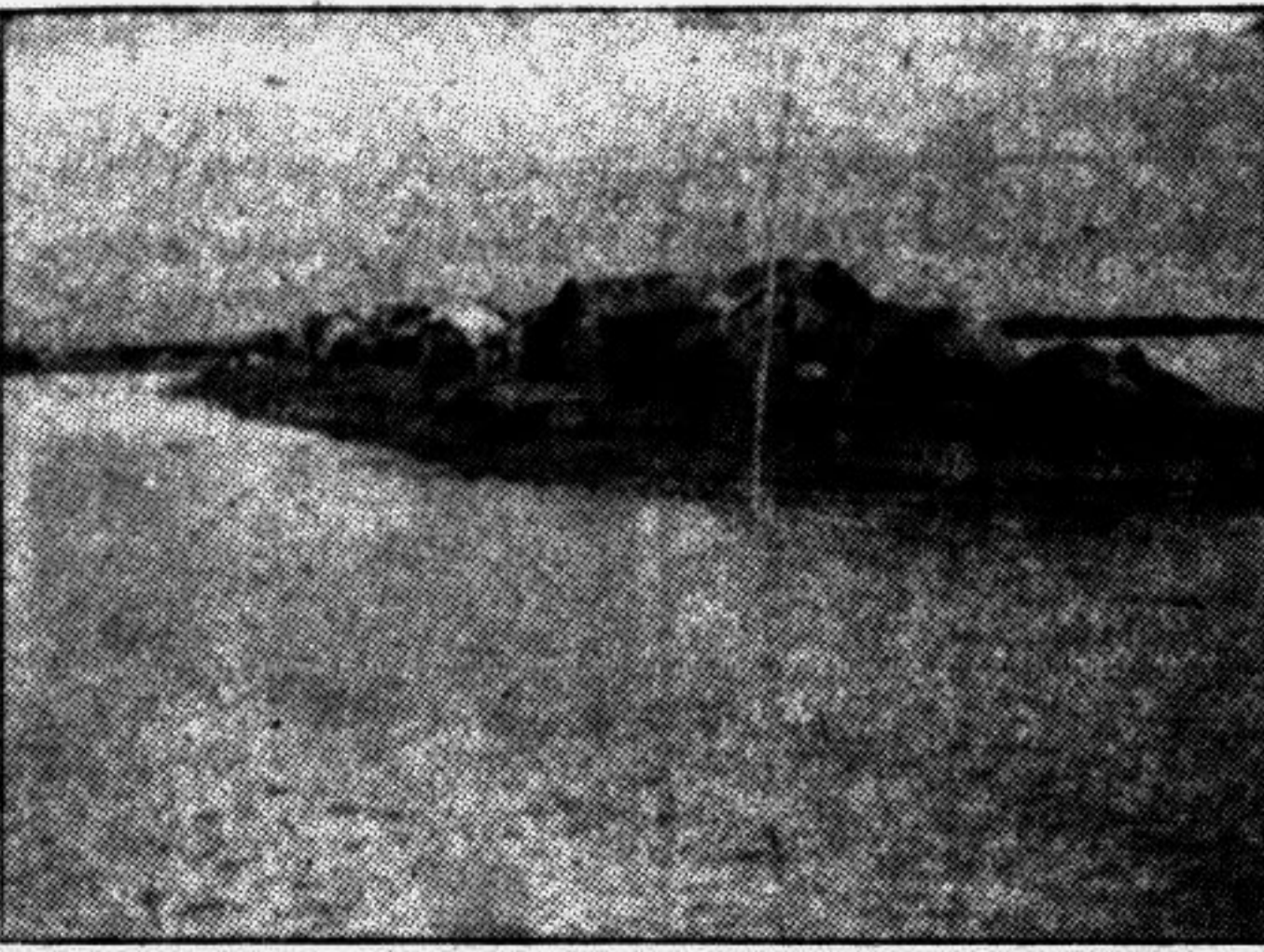
The ring embankment along the western bank of river Brahmaputra at Rasoolpur which developed a breach during the recent flood was under repairing. The half-repaired portion was again washed away by the surging water. Flood water was rushing through the breach and has already affected some 15,000 people directly. A large area has gone under flood water further deteriorating the crisis.

The river Brahmaputra at Fulchhari, Ghagot at Gaibandha sadar and Karotoa at Gobindaganj continued to swell till August 18 and flowing above danger mark. Report from different areas say about 50,000 people of different thanas along Gaibandha sadar, Fulchhari and Shaghata thanas were marooned during this flash flood.

This time a total of 37 unions out of 82 including

pourashava have been affected by flood water. Out of seven thanas, severely affected are Shaghata and Gobindaganj. With sudden rise of water level in river Karotoa vast tract of Gobindaganj Thana went under water within the course of 24 hours on August 17. Sharp rise of water level inundated crop lands, villages, roads, Gobindaganj bazar and Thana parishad complex. The national highway may face inundation at any time, the reports add.

Frequent flood completely paralysed the farmers experienced heavy loss for the second time.



GAIBANDHA: Some families of village Daccatia under sadar thana remain marooned in flood water. — Star photo by KM Rezaul Haque

Week-long rain causes flash flood in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 20: The week-long downpour has caused a flash flood all over the eight thanas of the district. The rain has also swelled the water level in all the major rivers and their tributaries in the district inundating vast tract of land in the either sides of the river banks.

According to the agriculture extension department, the flood has submerged over 20,000 hectares of standing aman crop fields all over the district. Besides this, vast vegetable field in the remote areas in the district met a colossal damage due to stagnant rain waters.

Information received from the affected areas say that the flash flood and the downpour have damaged many roads, embankments bridges and culverts causing a serious disruption in road communications.

There are large number of dwelling have partially and completely been damaged rendering many families shelterless.

Eyewitnesses said, most of the shelterless families have been experiencing worst sufferings in absence of proper shelters, food, cloths and medical aids. Many families amongst the flood victims allegedly have been facing a semi-starvation conditions since they are lacking source of earning to arrange food and other necessities for livelihood.

Meanwhile, prices of the daily necessities including rice have registered a sharp rise in different markets all over the district during the past few days, resulting in the untold sufferings to the common consumers.

The government steps to mitigate the sufferings of the calamities hit people are so far absent, it is alleged.

There are strong demand that the government should rush relief and start rehabilitation works in the affected areas to save thousands of victims from inhuman sufferings.

Three days of non-stop rain paralyzed life in CHT

From A K M Zahoorul Huq

About 3000 families in Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts were evacuated and provided with shelter. All their homes were damaged by the on rush water from the surrounding hills. The river waters from Shankha, Matamuhuri and Chengi also devoured hundreds of houses in these two districts.

RANGAMATI, Aug 20: Heavy rainfall in the last three days of August 12, 13 and 14 which triggered flash floods for the third time from June this year has claimed one life, hundreds of houses devoured, five families affected and damaged standing crops on a vast tract of lands paralyzing the life and activities in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The swelling rivers, and lake flooded crop lands and villages of the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban. The disastrous flash flood has caused erosion of the banks of the Chongi river in Khagrachhari and Shankha as well as Matamuhuri in Bandarban. It also caused landslide in many areas in the CHT region, disrupting road communications in seven routes connecting the three hill district headquarters and Chittagong.

One non-tribal man was

washed away when he was trying to catch hold of a floating log in a riverlet running in spate near Bandarban Hospital on August 13 morning. The identification of the man was not available, police said.

Many residential and commercial areas were inundated causing huge damage to properties. The affected areas included Bandarban sadar, Lama, Ramu, Roangchhari and Naingkhiongchhari in Bandarban hill district, Dighinala, Panchhari, Matiranga and Ramgarh in Khagrachhari hill district as well as all the ten thanas of the Rangamati hill district.

The entire Chittagong Hill Tracts region experience ceaseless rainfall which caused flash flood paralyzing normal life and activities of the people of the region till August 14.

The Changi river in Khagrachhari and Shankha as

well as Matamuhuri river in Bandarban which crisscross the hilly region are still flowing over danger level, official sources said.

About 3000 families in Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts were evacuated in Bandarban and Khagrachhari town at seven and five shelters as their homes were damaged by on rush waters. Hundreds of houses were also devoured in the river Showkhla, Matamuhuri and Changi.

Due to collapse of transmission tower at Dohagari, the Bandarban town was without electricity through the whole day on August 14.

Telecommunications among the five thanas out of seven in Bandarban, four thanas out of eight in Khagrachhari and three thanas out of ten in Rangamati were also snapped.

Many areas in CHT went under one to three-metre deep water.

Tk 3.5 lakh allocated for hospital

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 20: Taka 3.5 lakh was allocated for Jhenidah diabetic hospital recently, it is learnt.

According to reports, the government is constructing seven diabetic hospitals in the country. Five units including medicine, eye, ear, nose and throat (ENT), and surgery will be available in this 25 bed hospital, sources said.

It was learnt from the sources, that on May 1, 1993 the activities of the diabetic hospital started at Jhenidah where 10 employees including two doctors have been giving services to the patients.

Voter registration '95 8.93 lakh enlisted in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 20: The draft voter list published on July 5, puts the number of voters of the district at 8,92,902.

According to voters' list, in seven thanas of the district, the number of male voters is 4,40,939 while 4,51,963 are female voters.

The official source disclosed that number of female voters exceeded that of male voters by more than 11,000 in the new voter list in seven thanas of the district.

In Satkhira sadar thana there are 95754 male and 97759 female voters.

In Shyamnagar thana the number of voter is male 71720 and female 75014. In Kaliganj thana male voters

number 61575 and female voters number 62092.

In Debhata thana male voters number 26415 and female voters number 27063, while in Kalaroa thana there are 52010 male and 54537 female voters. Tala thana has 72645 male and 72510 female voters and Assassuni thana has 71720 male and 75014 female voters.

According to district election office, the period of submission of objections to respective TNO's and district election office was from July 5 to July 22.

The respective TNOs of outlying thanas after hearing the objections is expected to dispose of them by August 12.

5603 candidates for 35 posts!

PATUAKHALI, Aug 20: Some 5,603 candidates applied for only 35 posts of assistant teachers the government primary schools of the district, reports UNB.

Informed sources said, many of the applicants were Master degree holders. Officials in charge of selection are facing problems in scrutinising such a huge number of applications.

Of the total, 1,553 applications were received from Bauphal thana, 1,450 from sadar, 906 from Galachipa, 690 from Mirzaganj, 593 from Kalapara and 411 from Dasmithana.

The male candidates expressed their annoyance as government declared special quota for the females. They said the males are wholly responsible to maintain livelihood of their respective families while there is no such obligation for the females.

They also said a large number of educated young men are unemployed in the country whose families are facing financial hardship.

Bus passengers robbed of

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 20: A daring bus dacoity was committed in a Laximpasha bound coach of Eagle Paribahan on Jessore-Jhenidah road recently, it is learnt.

According to reports, some 7 to 8 dacoits who were travelling in the guise of passengers attacked the driver near Bhaina and took control over the coach and stabbed 8 passengers including the supervisor of the coach.

Then the miscreants looted valuables of the passengers worth at least Taka one lakh and boarded off near Kaliganj, it was learnt. It may be noted here that road dacoities have increased on Jhenidah-Jessore, Jhenidah-Magura and Jhenidah-Kushthia roads recently.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 30 lakh seized in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 20: The jawans of 21 Rifles Battalion, Satkhira, recovered huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Taka 30 lakh from different border areas of the district in between August 1 and August 7.

According to local BDR sources, the jawans of Jhhowdanga, Kaddanga, Kushkhali, Baikari, Ghona, Padma Shakhra, Debhata, Bhomra, Talugacha, Madra, Shakhra, Rudrapur and Hizaldi border outposts launching anti-smuggling drives recovered these smuggled goods.

The smuggled goods include, salt, sugar, medicine, imitation ornaments, cycles, cycle parts, machinery, spices, pulse, hide and skins, cows and sarees.

BKB to lend Tk 1.25 cr in Barisal region

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Aug 20: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has taken up a massive programme for distribution of agricultural loan of Tk 1.25 crore in greater Barisal region during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Officials said the loan will be disbursed through 23 branches of the region according to rules and regulations of the bank.

According to local sources, the distribution of loan has already been going on in full swing in the region. Regional Manager of BKB, Md Abu Yousuf, has been personally supervising the loan distribution among the genuine farmers.

It is alleged that some loans were trying to grab a portion of money by maintaining linkage with corrupted field staff.

However, local people demanded due attention of the authorities in this regard.

Rehabilitation plan in 5 dists to cost Tk 1.77cr

MYMENSINGH, Aug 20: A post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme has been taken up by the Agriculture Extension Department in five districts of Mymensingh Agriculture Region, reports BSS.

The districts are Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Kishoreganj and Netrakona. Under this programme aman seedlings would be raised on 8581 hectares of land at a cost of Tk 1.77 crore. The seedlings will be supplied to the flood stricken farmers in the area free of cost.



NATORE: This is all that remains of river Narod at Tebariahat area. Heavy siltation has reduced the river to a mere canal. — Star photo

Four jailed for illegal logging in CHT

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Aug 20: Four persons were awarded three years' simple imprisonment and penalised Taka ten thousand, in default to suffer another six months' in jail by the 1st class magistrate of Rangamati S M Murshed recently for illegal extraction of teak timber from the government reserved forest.

The case in brief was that on April 21, 1994 Joyanta Kumar Chakma and Dirga Chakma of village Taranga Adam in Kotwali thana of the district along with Nur Nabi and Mustafa of village Shilok in Rangunia thana of Chittagong district were caught red-handed at 1972

government reserved plantation of Kaptai Forest Range in Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division while illegally extracting teak timber, by the forest officials. The illicit timber extracted by the accused along with accessories were also recovered.

A case was lodged under Forest Act with Kaptai police and handed over the accused to police custody.

A total of 827 forest cases of different nature lodged by the Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division are under trial with the Rangamati Forest Magistrate Court, said Muazzem Hussein, Forest Case Conducting Officer.

Barendra project gets Tk 100cr for uplift works

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 20: Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) was sanctioned Taka 105 crore and 70 lakh for implementing its development programmes during the current fiscal year, official sources here said.

Out of the total allocation, Taka 75 crore will be spent for performing its normal programmes. At a cost of Taka 30 crore, several link roads will be built to connect different thana headquarters and important markets. BMDA will spend Taka 40 lakh this year for production of fine rice of export quality and Taka 30 lakh for lifting drinking water with the help of irrigation tubewells.

Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority is functioning in 25 thanas of Rajshahi, Naogan and Chapainawabganj districts to diversify agriculture and increase crop production by initiation of necessary irrigation facility, to plant free saplings, dig canals and reexcavate silted ponds to minimise desertification and to increase the amount of rains and thereby improve the ecological balance in the Barendra region that is well-known for its dry and desert-like weather.

According to the official sources, BMDA has already sunk 5,000 deep tubewells and brought about 3 lakh acres of land under irrigation facility. During the 4 years from 1990 to 1994 of the phase-II of its functioning, BMDA has installed 2,191 and commissioned another 2,102 deep tubewells, out of which 1294 were given electric connections. At the same

time, 174 deep tubewells were rehabilitated. To facilitate irrigation to all the lands under the command areas. A total of 800 pucca and kutcha water distribution systems small narrow canals were made. It reexcavated 309 ponds and one kilometer long canal and made three cross dams to protect lands from floods. During the second-phase, the BMDA also constructed 50 kilometres long brick-built and pitched road connecting the thana headquarters and important administrative and business places.

To improve and maintain ecological balance in the Barendra region, BMDA planted 57.31 lakh tree saplings, out of which 80 per cent trees were alive. BMDA has undertaken a massive plan to plant 14 lakh saplings this year and plantation of 8 lakh saplings have already been completed.

30 projects worth Tk one crore implemented in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Aug 20: Under Annual Development Programme 30 projects were implemented in three thanas of the district at a cost of Tk one crore during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Of the projects, five were implemented in agriculture and irrigation sector, 12 in education, seven in transport and six in small and cottage industry sectors.



RAJSHAHI: A BMDA-constructed road running from Badalgachi to Naogaon. Alongside the road are growing plants and electric lines and six people are seen to take care of the road and the plants. — Star photo

Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 20: Fatema Khatun, 22, a housewife of village Mirjapur in Saikupa thana of the district committed suicide by taking pesticides recently.

According to reports, Fatema Khatun, daughter of Motleb Seikh of village Jhaudia of the same thana was married to Yunus Ali of village Mirjapur about three years back. On August 8 at about 10 am dispute arose with her father-in-law and mother-in-law. At one stage Fatema took pesticides and died instantly.

An UD case was lodged with Saikupa thana in this connection. It may be noted here that number of suicide cases rose to 99 in Saikupa thana of the district till August 8, 1995.

A stadium for Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 20: Construction work of a stadium complex is now going on in full swing here to improve the standard of sports, reports UNB.

National Sports Council (NSC) and Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) are jointly implementing the project on 11:63 acres of land in the district headquarters.

NSC last year sanctioned Tk 25 lakh for the construction of the pavilion of the stadium complex. The first phase of the work is expected to be completed by October next.

CHT Development Board last year spent Tk 1.16 crore for construction of boundary wall, barbed wire fencing and earth work, said the secretary of the Board Tarun Kumar Bhattacharya.

He said this year they will spend Tk 1.52 crore for construction of gallery and a two-storey pavilion and preparing the field with grass and sand.

8000 hectares of arable land under threat of inundation

PATUAKHALI, Aug 20: Standing crops on about 8,000 hectares of land in Barabaisdia and Chaitabunia unions of the district are under constant threat of inundation due to want of an embankment, reports UNB.

Local people said about 30,000 people of the area are passing their days with utmost uncertainty about the fate of their standing crops.

The two unions are surrounded by the rivers Tetulia, Diga and Ramnad. Due to its vulnerable location, an embankment is needed there on priority basis. Saline water intrusion and flash floods occur in these unions every year causing a huge loss to the farmers of the locality.

Kalapara thana office of Water Development Board sources said a scheme has been undertaken to construct 48 km long embankment around the two unions with ten sluice gates over ten canals to prevent the flash floods and intrusion of saline water.

Preliminary survey in this respect has already been completed. The construction of the embankment may begin in the next year under financial assistance from an international agency, they said.

Local people grabbing govt lands in Noakhali

MAJDEE COURT, Noakhali, Aug 20: Hundreds of plots of government acquired land in the district town were grabbed by some local people as those have been lying vacant since long, reports UNB.

About 100 plots at Lakshminarayanpur, Majdeee Hospital road, Flat road and Islamia road, which have been lying unutilised and uncared for the last 45 years, have also been grabbed by the people.

Some 855 shopkeepers were allowed temporarily to continue their business without any valid documents. But they have not been given permanent settlement even after 45 years of their occupation.

The government has also been deprived of huge revenue from shopkeepers. Several proposals and steps were taken to transfer those acquired land to the shopkeepers through a permanent settlement which has not yet been implemented.

By this time, the remaining vacant plots are being grabbed by a section of people.