

Naogaon town flooded again

From Our Correspondent



RAJSHAHI: The river Chota Jamuna overflowed and entered the Naogaon town flooding one-third of the municipality area. — Star photo

RAJSHAHI, Aug 26: The devastating flood for the second time in Naogaon district has submerged huge areas including one third area of the town and most of the low lying places in 30 unions of seven thanas of the district.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent has recently visited the inundated areas in the district. Following is a report sent to us yesterday.

Most areas under 30 unions of seven thanas and about one-third of the municipality area in Naogaon district were directly affected by floods for the second time this year.

Both the Chota Jamuna and the Atrai are flowing through the district crossing their danger marks and overflowing these areas. The overall flood situation in most places of the district have deteriorated due to breaches in the protection dams at many points.

According to the sources, both the Chota Jamuna and the Atrai began to rise early this month and crossed their danger levels on Aug 13 and 14.

In addition to it a record rainfall early this month upto Aug 20 totally paralyzed the entire town. About 350 mm rainfall was recorded. The situation thus aggravated resulting submergence of a vast area of the district.

At first the low-lying areas went under water due to heavy rains. Then the river waters began to overflow since Aug 11 and the flood situation aggravated within Aug 14 just after the crossing of the respective danger levels of the rivers.

The sadar thana, Atrai and Manda thanas were the first to be flooded.

Among other thanas, Raninagar, Badalgachi, Patnaitala, Dhamoirhat and the municipality areas were affected later.

Some people from Kamargaoon union under Tanore thana of Rajshahi district out a protection dam along side the river Shiva at Tengraghat near Singa of Manda thana that resulted in inundation of about 25 square kilometer areas of the thana alongwith another 250 sq km area of three thanas of Rajshahi. Standing aus paddy worth about Tk 30 crore were completely damaged.

The Atrai river breached the flood protection dam made alongside its banks at two points near Sadupur and Mahadighi and flooded a vast area.

The Tulshiganga river breached the flood protection dam at Namanurpur of Tilakpur union under sadar thana and submerged more than 150 sq km areas of the sadar and Raninagar thanas of Naogaon and the neighbouring Adandighi thana of Bogra. As a result standing aus and aman paddy worth about Tk 15 crore were damaged.

The dam along the east bank of the Atrai was also breached at four points from Kanchan sluice gate to Chandpur sluice gate.

In the municipality area, the hospital premises, sadar thana police station, old Judge Court area, jail premises, DC office, Ukil Para, KD School Road, Suparipatti, Kalitola Road and some other areas went under flood water. Naogaon-Mahadebpur main road was submerged in about two and a half kilometer length area.

Thana Health Complex premises, union parishad and some other areas of Nazipur — the thana headquarters of Patnaitala were submerged.

According to the Naogaon District Relief Office, about 300 sq km area of 30 unions of the district were inundated by the floods affecting 12,500 families directly. The floods damaged about 700 houses completely and other 14,000 houses partially.

Standing crops of about 3500 acres were completely damaged and of 15,000 acres of lands partially. Besides, 56 educational and 49 religious institutions, 135-km road, eight bridges, 16 culverts and nine dams were damaged completely or partially.

District Relief Officer Abul Kalam Azad said that the government has allocated Tk 2,50,000 in cash, 150 metric tons of wheat, 100 metric tons of rice, 500 pieces of lungi, 500 pieces of sarees and Tk 1,50,000 as house building assistance for the flood-affected people of the district. The relief materials had already been sent to the thana headquarters and the processing of distribution were rapidly going on, he said.

The district Civil Surgeon informed that eight medical teams were formed who were working in the flood-affected areas to combat diarrhoea and other enteric and infectious diseases.

Local people, when contacted, alleged that no relief materials yet reached them and the allocations which were likely to be distributed among them were too little to meet the demands.

The government sources, however, said that more allocation would be granted in needed. An extensive post flood rehabilitation programme will soon be started in the district, it is learnt.



RAJSHAHI: A road was washed away in Manda thana of Naogaon district by the recent floods. — Star photo

Our Correspondent from Kushtia adds: Water level in rivers Ganges and Gorai are rising fast creating panic among the people living in four unions of Daulatpur thana, two unions of Bheramara thana, Talbaria union of Mirpur thana and vast majority of people of Kumarkhali poura area including Joyanabad village.

Incessant rainfall during the month of July has aggravated the situation. All low lying areas of those places mentioned above have gone under water damaging standing crops over an area of 5000 acres of land as the water level rose.

With the rising of water level erosion has started in several places. Erosion victims are passing days in panic.

With abrupt rise of water level in the river Ganges near Hardinge Bridge ferry services in between Bheramara and Paksey have been hazardous because ferry ghaats are being shifted frequently to cope with the situation.

This has created difficulties in transportation of vehicles stranded on both sides of the ferry ghat and taking much time in crossing the river.

Ganges Kobadak Project, gigantic irrigation project of the country has been facing a serious set back as the 3000 feet long intake channel linking the river Ganges has been badly damaged by ero-



RAJSHAHI: Flood waters submerged town areas of Naogaon disrupting normal life. — Star photo

sion of river and GK Project authority are now in great difficulties due to this erosion which started a few years back. The local authority informed the government about the impact of the erosion and a project profile was prepared to combat the situation, an engineer of the GK Project told this correspondent.

Although Minister of the Water Resources accepted the proposal for renovating the intake channel but adequate fund has not yet been placed for tackling the situation caused by erosion.

Meanwhile, the river Ganges while eroding the bank of intake channel of GK Project, it was also devoured vast tract of land including the approach road towards

river Gorai.

The irrigation department of the then Pakistan constructed two earthen armoured groyens to protect Kumarkhali town from erosion. But due to wrong site selection, the groyens did not work properly and institutions like MN High School, Kumarkhali Degree College and paura bazar were eroded by the river.

The erosion also affected main canal of Ganges Kobadak Project seven miles from Kushtia town in Chapra Union of Kumarkhali thana. The project authority have been spending huge amount of money every year to protect the banks to save their project. Large number of houses on the bank of the project have been devoured



RAJSHAHI: A road was washed away in Manda thana of Naogaon district by the recent floods. — Star photo

Bheramara, Paksey ferry ghat compelling Roads and Highways Department to construct alternative road to maintain uninterrupted communication from southern to northern part of the country.

In total erosion of the river Ganges and Gorai have rendered over one lakh people homeless in four thanas of the district during last ten years.

The river also eroded many houses, offices, educational institutions, business establishments, culverts, roads and vast tract of cultivable land in the affected areas.

Earlier, the river Ganges and Gorai were deep and wide. Those could carry much water. But due to heavy siltation, the rivers gradually lost their depth and changed their courses.

The heavy siltation has been caused by low flow of water from the upper stream for the unilateral withdrawal of water by India.

The surging tide and wave directly hit the banks of the rivers round the year. But during the rainy season, the rate of erosion increases alarmingly.

The river Gorai has eroded vast tract of land in Kumarkhali including part of paura bazar, old MN High School, Kumarkhali Degree College and threatening a number of handloom industries and other institutions located by the side of the

by the erosion where 5000 people have become homeless.

The GK Project authority placed many percupines at a cost of Taka 20 lakh on several occasions to save the main canal. The authority also spent a considerable amount to save Kumarkhali town.

The Gorai river also eroded a portion of Jayanabad village of Kumarkhali thana where 260 families became homeless.

The erosion of the river Ganges has devoured 13 villages in eight unions covering an area of 5000 acres of land in Daulatpur thana where 12-mile long Raita Mohiskundi flood protection embankment constructed in 1972 have been threatened.

The unions affected are: Adabaria, Pragpur, Boalia and Atria while the devoured unions are: Philipnagar, Ramkrisnapur, Maricha and Chilmari. The people of these areas have been shifted in safer places and given temporary accommodation on make shift way.

The erosion has engulfed a portion of Raita Mohiskundi Flood Protection Embankment apart from six primary schools, one madrasa, nine mosques, six high schools and 18 culverts which have already been washed away by the fury of erosion caused by direct effect of Farakka Barrage constructed by India on the other part of the border.

One arrested with pistol in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Aug 26: Police have arrested one Kamal, 20, from the launch terminal area of Patuakhali town and recovered a country made pistol from his possession recently.

It is reported that, patrol police of Patuakhali sadar thana while patrolling at Patuakhali launch terminal ghat watched Kamal, who was suspiciously walking there. At one state, the police challenged him. He tried to escape. But police caught him and recovered a country made pistol from his possession.

A case was filed with the respective police station in this connection. Kamal was produced before the court later on.

One commits suicide

PATUAKHALI, Aug 26: A house wife Hasina Begum, 25, committed suicide at village Shehakathi under Patuakhali sadar thana recently.

It is learnt that, on the day of incident at about noon Hasina Begum, wife of one Abdul Motaleb, took poison to kill herself. She was rushed to the Patuakhali Sadar Hospital for treatment in a critical condition. But she died there in the afternoon.

The cause behind her committing suicide was not immediately known.

A case of unnatural death was filed with the Patuakhali police station in this connection.

The deadbody was sent to the Patuakhali morgue for autopsy.

Two bodies recovered in Bandarban

From CHT Correspondent

BANDARBAN, Aug 26: Acting on a tip, Bandarban Kotwali police has recovered two bodies, apparently victims of unnatural deaths from two different places on Wednesday, police sources said.

Police, accompanied by a magistrate, dug out a body from a jungle at Balaghata, 15 kilometres north-west of the district headquarters. The body was buried three feet beneath the earth. The body, recovered, was identified as Rabi Tanchangya, an ex-member of the tribal insurgent group who earlier gave himself up to the law enforcing agency. Rabi was found missing since August 2, police and local people said.

No more information on the killing of Rabi, who returned to normal life was available.

Meanwhile, police recovered another body of a middle-aged man from a paddy field adjacent to Balaghata brickfield. The mouth of the victim was gagged. The body was identified as Sukumar Barua of Balaghata. Police could not trace the killers, sources said.

1 killed, 8 injured in clash in Barisal

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 26: One person was killed on the spot and eight persons were injured, three of them seriously, following a clash over land dispute between two groups of villagers at Bauria village under Lalmothan thana of Bhola district recently.

One crushed to death

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 26: One person was crushed under wheels of a speeding private car while he was crossing the town by-pass highway near Peer-Bari of the district town at around 6-30 pm on Saturday, August 19.

According to eye-witness and hospital sources, Md Sayedul Hoque, 16, of Kandipar Moholla of Brahmanbaria pourasava riding a bicycle was crossing the local Peer-Bari crossing point in town by-pass highway while a Brahmanbaria bound speeding car knocked him down to death on the spot.

Sarbahara Party activist arrested in Magura

MAGURA, Aug 26: An activist of outlawed Sarbahara Party was arrested from a village in Sreepur thana recently, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided a house at Sreepur village and nabbed Inchhar Ali.

BHBFC not functioning in Rajshahi Div for long 10 yrs

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 26: People of the 16 northern districts of the country have been deprived of the house-building loan facilities of the Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) for about long ten years. The concerned local authorities cannot say when will it start again.

Official sources here said that the government initiated the programme of disbursing loans for building one storied house in 1973 in all the then districts through Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation. Then the rate of interest of the loan was 11 per cent. The programme was taken to help the town dwellers of low income and of middle class. Later, in 1977 the government extended the programme to sanction loan at a lesser rate of interest of only five per cent for building multistoried buildings. The programme became very popular and a huge number of people took loans.

Most of the loans however, remained unrealised. As a result, the housebuilding loan programme had to be stopped in 1986 through out the country. In 1991 through a special decision by the newly elected democratic government the House Building Finance Corporation anyhow restarted the loan programme in different places of the country namely Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna, except in 16 districts of Rajshahi Division.

The local office of the Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation, when

contacted, could not give any specific reasons behind the suspension of house building loan programme in Rajshahi Division. The sources, however, said that one of the reasons might be the considerably large number of defaulters in Rajshahi Division.

According to the concerned sources, more than Taka 60 crore loans of the Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation are now lying unrealised in 16 districts of Rajshahi Division. Out of the total, defaulting house building loans in four districts of greater Rajshahi are amounting about 50 per cent, as it is learnt.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation has undertaken some measures for realisation of outstanding loans. An official said that the corporation was rescheduling the outstanding loans of the defaulters to enable them to pay the loans by new instalments and was decreasing the rate of interests also on condition of payment of at least four instalments at a time. This has encouraged the defaulters and they have already paid a sufficient amount of loans. According to the sources, Taka 26 crore 30 lakh 97 thousands was realised from four districts of greater Rajshahi in 1993-94 fiscal year that is more than ever realised in last eight years. The amount of loans realised in 1994-95 will exceed that of the previous year, it is hoped.

When enquired into the causes of considerably low rate of realisation of house

building loans in Rajshahi Division, an official here said that the loanees could not pay their monthly instalments from the earnings of the houses as the house rents were considerably low in Rajshahi Division. Usually only Tk 1000 to Tk 3000 can be earned permonth as the wage from a flat of three rooms here. It is also alleged that some powerful persons received loans against one or more houses in collaboration with a few dishonest officials of the HBFC who did not spend all the money for building the houses and did not pay more than 3/4 instalments. Most of them have earned a huge amount of money as the wage from the houses for last 10-22 years. This section of defaulters are reportedly not worried at all about their houses to be sold by auction.

The HBFC cannot recover the just amount of money by selling the houses of defaulters for their low quality and worse conditions, it was learnt.

However, the people of the northern districts hope that the outstanding loans would be realised anyhow as per law and at the same time the loan programme of BHBFC would be started again.

It is to be mentioned here that the problem of residential accommodation has become critical in last few years in most of the northern districts especially in the towns with increasing number of people migrating day by day to the towns for employment, residence, business and education purposes.

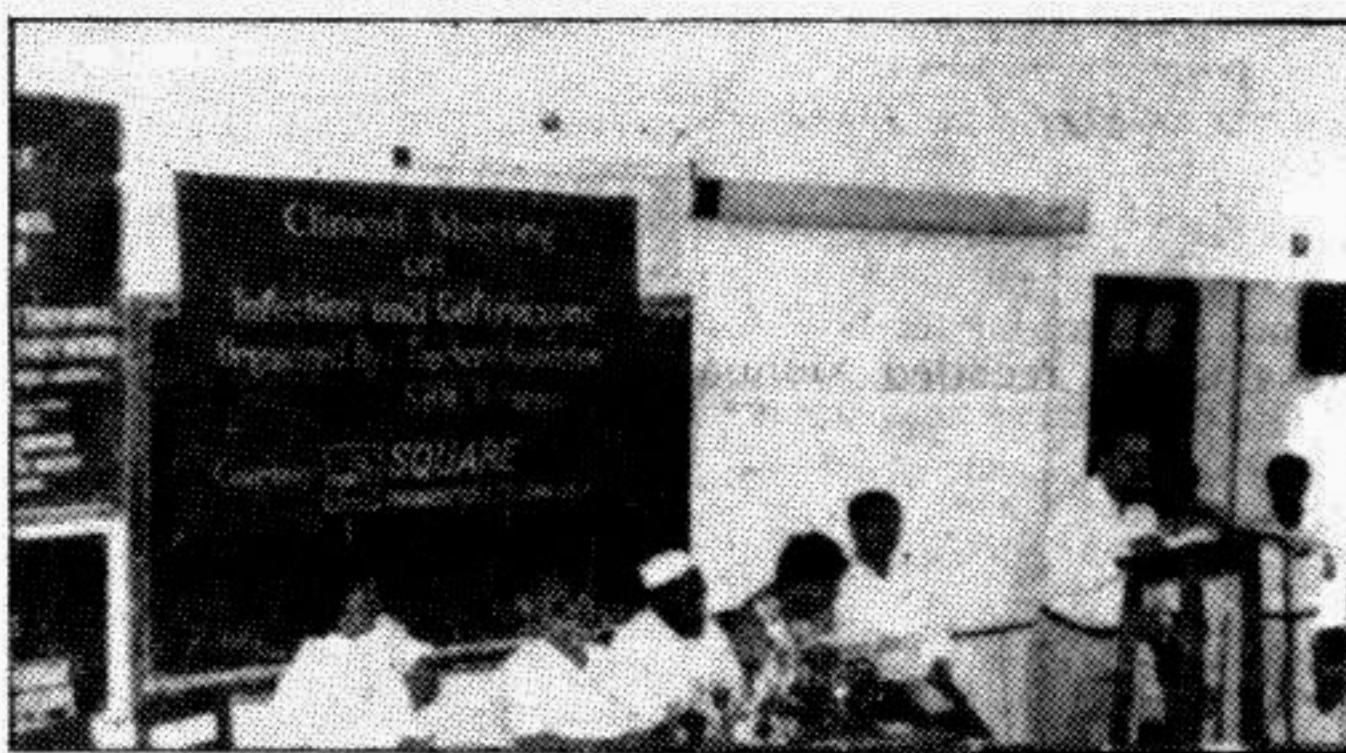
Meeting discusses development of modern medical science

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 26: A meeting on 'Infection and Ceftriaxone' was held here at the gallery of Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College last Monday with Professor Md Abdul Halim Khan, Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, SBMCH, in the chair while Dr Abdul Karim Mollah, Principal and Professor of the department of medicine SBMCH was present in the meeting as the chief guest.

The meeting was organised by the Teachers' Association of SBMCH, Barisal with the courtesy of Square Pharmaceutical Ltd Bangladesh.

Five doctors of Barisal Medical College presented their keynote topics in the meeting. They are Dr Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology Dr Sanwar Hossain, Professor, Department of surgery -Surgical Infections, Dr Shah Alam, Assistant Professor, OBS and Gynae -Infections in Pregnancy, Dr Dilip Kumar Roy, Assistant Professor, Nephrology - Infection Problems in Medicine and Dr Md Abdul Hayee, RP (Medicine) - Modern Approach to Infections. Open discussion was held after reading out the keynot topics. Dr Samir Kanti Saha, Medical Services Department of Square Pharmaceutical Ltd Bangladesh in his inaugural speech said, this sort of clinical meetings is surely a good



BARISAL: A clinical meeting on 'Infection and Ceftriaxone' was held in the Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College on Monday last, organised by Teachers Association of SBMCH sponsored by Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd Bangladesh. — Star photo

idea to have the latest information about the advancement and development of new medicines and medical science in our country.

Dr Saha, later, told The Daily Star that these clinical meetings can bridge gaps of old and new thoughts. Holding of this sort of meeting can aware the medical professionals about the recent advancement of medicine in our country.

Earlier, a month ago a clinical meeting on azithromycin and seftrixaxone was held at the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College, he informed, the next meeting is scheduled to be held on 'Diabetics and Endocrinology' at BARDEM on 26 to 29 August. These meetings are

academic in nature and being conducted under our on going Medical Education programmes.

Dr Md Abdul Halim Khan, President, Teachers' Association, SBMCH, Barisal in his speech said, efforts to fight against micro organisms causing human sufferings is a continuous process since the inception of medical science. Effective agent has revolutionized the medical history. He also said, this meeting will definitely ventilate our knowledge with informative messages and hope we all will be benefitted.

Dr Aziz Rahim, GS, Teachers Association said, we must be untiring in our efforts to discover and develop new antibiotics.

Road construction work remains incomplete for long 20 yrs

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 26: The construction work of the Rajor Kowatalipara road has not been completed in the last 20 years and as such two lakh people of Kowatalipara thana are deprived of easy communication.

The 20 kilometers long road from Rajor to the Kowatalipara thana headquarters of Gopalganj district is under construction for the last 20 years. The earth work of Rajor-Kowatalipara road was completed in 1976.

Then the work of constructing bridges and harring bond of the road was started in 1994 after the long 19 years. The Local Government Engineering Department completed the construction of Ramnagar, Kalabari-1, Kalabari-2, Petkata, a Khejurbari, Radhagonj and Parkona bridges of the road and started the work of its harring bond. Then the Road and Highway Division told that it would complete the rest of the construction work of the road. But the Road and Highway Division has not undertaken the said construction work.

LGEED/LGED completed the work of harring bond from Kowatalipara headquarters to Petkata and it could

not complete the rest harring bond work of the road at the Road and Highway Division's embargo. The harring bond work of 10 kilometers from Petkata of Kowatalipara thana to Senkhali of Rajor thana of the road has not been completed yet. As such no vehicle can run on the road.

Piracy in Padma

From Our correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 26: A piracy was committed in the broad day light on a mechanized boat in the river Padma recently.

It is reported that a group of cattle traders, while going on boat, was attacked by a gang of pirates numbering 20 to 25 near char Shalepur under char Bhadrason thana. The pirates who were armed with lethal weapons started beating the cattle trader mercilessly and decamped with Taka seven lakh.

It is also reported that two of the cattle traders jumped into the river Padma in fear of the pirates and their whereabouts are still to be traced.

The boat owner Kamal Majhi was admitted to Faridpur General Hospital with serious injuries.

3 women drown in boat capsized in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Aug 26: Three women drowned in a boat capsized in river Tista near Chander-Char of Chagalstra under Homna thana recently.

It is learnt that the boat carrying 10 passengers from Kriparrampur to Kalagachia capsized which was hit by a gusty wind. Those drowned were Salina, 30, Jahanara, 35 and Banu 7.

Seven passengers were rescued by the local people.

DLD vaccinates 95 thousand cattle in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 26: District Livestock Department (DLD) has vaccinated 95 thousand cattle heads and 44 lakh poultry birds during this current fiscal year. Besides the department brought about 35 thousand cows under artificial breeding and distributed 89,700 chicken, 200 cocks and 33 thousand eggs.