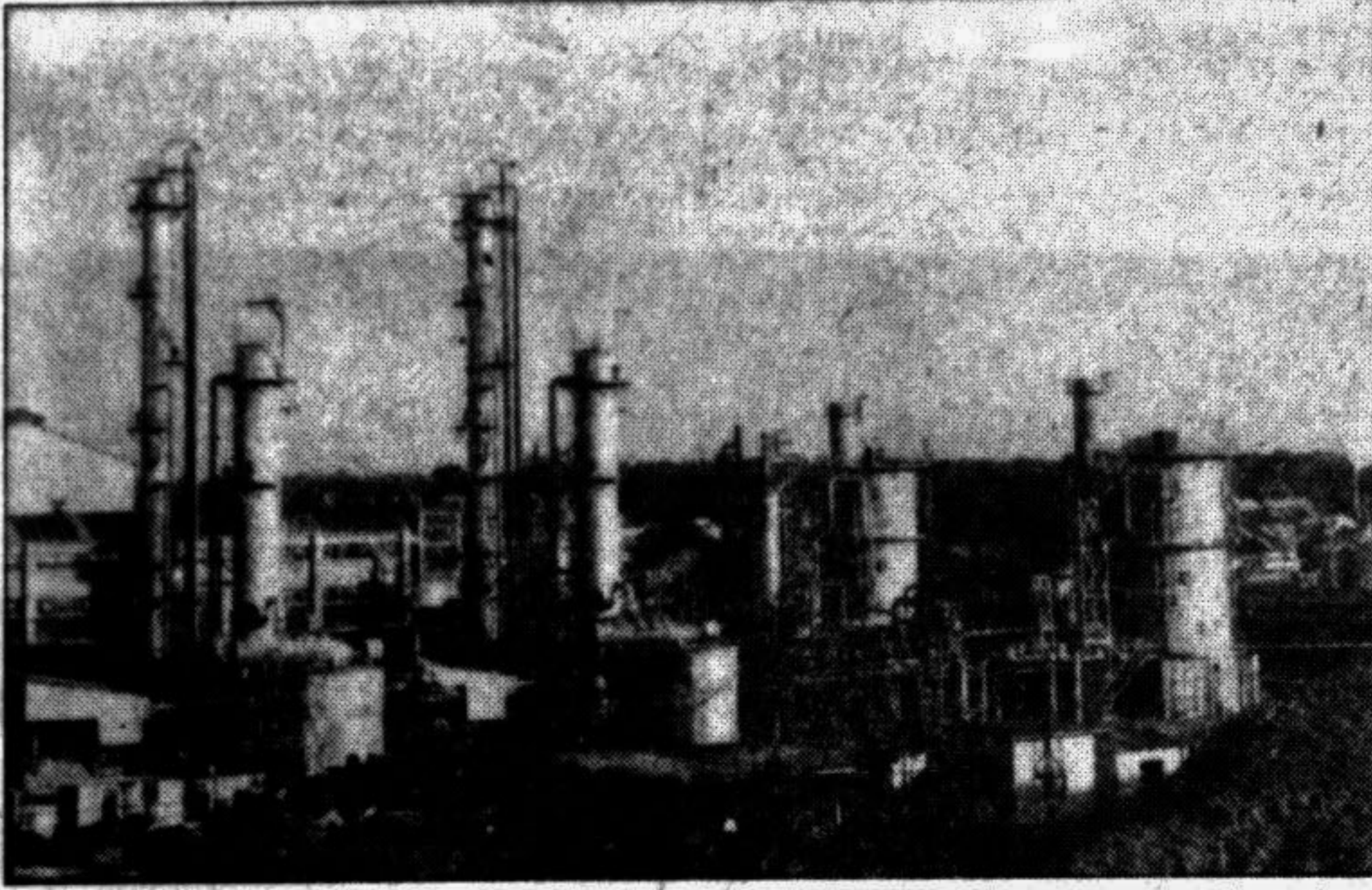


Fenchuganj Fertilizer Factory undergoes major overhauling

From Iqbal Siddiquee



The Fenchuganj natural gas fertilizer factory.

— Star photo

SYLHET, Sept 3: A major overhauling of natural gas fertilizer factory, Fenchuganj began on September 1. The factory, a concern of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) began such overhauling after a long period since 1986. However, the scheduled overhauling would not take place this time, due to a cut in the sanctioned amount by the BCIC, sources claimed.

Official sources informed that, the unit could not go on any kind of overhauling only due to fund constraint since 1986. The factory failed to achieve its target of production in 1989-90.

A technical team of BCIC after visiting the factory in 1991, termed it as "Worn-out and insecure to run". Based on this, BCIC announced its decision to wind up the factory on June, 30 of 1992. The workers and employees as well as the people of Sylhet protested the decision and launched a movement.

The government then, formed a four-men high-level technical team with Professor Iqbal Mahmud as chief to explore the possibilities of running the factory. It team reported that, the factory could run easily and for

increased production, a major overhauling was a must. According, the government sanctioned an amount of Taka 12 crore for the proposed overhauling.

But, the BCIC trifled much in placing the sanctioned fund for the purpose. It caused much delay in starting the task, sources alleged. At last, the BCIC reduced the sanctioned amount to Taka 6 crore 40 lakh, recently.

President of the employees union of the factory claimed that, the 1,600 employees and workers made it possible to keep the state-owned factory on profit through exceeding the production targets adding, some interested quarters within the BCIC have been trying hard to shut down the same for long. Even they authority (BCIC) advocated for total closure on the plea of technical causes twice, he alleged.

The factory produced to total of 83,600 tonnes of Urea in the last fiscal (1994-95) against its target of 80,000 tonnes. The factory also exceeded its production target by 25 per cent in July this year. However, Production of Ammonia Sulphate was suspended in July due to technical faults, power

shortage and shortage of instrument and raw-materials, sources said.

The ongoing overhauling would take 40 days, an official informed. Meanwhile, the governments' decision to start a new fertilizer factory in the name of "Shahjalal Fertilizer Company" at the adjacent site of the old factory is still at the initial stage. As many as 7 firms both local and foreign took part in the tender for the appointment of technical advisor. It would be finalised soon, informed an official source.

However, the China National Chemical engineers Construction and China National Civil Construction Company (CNCEC & CNCCC) have been selected by the government for construction works of the proposed fertilizer company. CNCEC & CNCCC were only companies those took part in the tender called for the purpose, the source added.

It is widely expected that, construction of the proposed fertilizer company would start from the first part of 1996. It would take 36 months to 38 months to complete, and to start the initial production.

Minor girl raped to death

NARSINGDI, Sept 3: A minor girl was raped to death at village Bagdi in Polash thana of the district, police said today, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, a rickshawpuller named Motalib, 25, allegedly picked up Nilufar Yasmin, 6, daughter of Mostafa Mia while she was returning home at night on August 22.

He raped the girl after taking her to his house. Local people recovered her in a critical condition and admitted to Sadar Hospital, where she died next day.

A case was filed with the police.

5 sentenced to life in Habiganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 3: The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Habiganj Md Aman Ullah while passing his judgement in a murder case found five persons guilty and sentenced them all to suffer life-term imprisonment on August 30 last. The court also acquitted 3 others of the charges brought against them in the same case.

The prosecution case in brief is that, Shahabuddin of village Fatehpur in the union of Pukra under Baniachang thana of Habiganj district was killed in the hands of assailants in the mid night following 6 January 1991. The killers threw the body in the nearby river. Police later recovered the body and registered a case in this connection against eight accused persons. The police after holding investigations submitted chargesheet against all the accused persons. The court took testimony of a total of 21 witnesses.

The court after examining all the records and witnesses found the accused Nana Miah, Faruque Miah, Shamuddin, Masaddar Ali and Maksud Miah guilty and sentenced them all to suffer life-term imprisonment.

One killed, another hurt in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 3: One person was killed and another one was seriously injured in a road accident that occurred at Shuvashini Bazar under Tala thana on Satkhira-Chuknagar road recently.

According to Tala thana police, the victims Fashiar Rahman, 35, of village Kalia and Abdus Sobhan of village Tersi both under Tala thana while waiting for another bus by the side of the road, a Khulna bound speedy minibus No. Khulna JA 04-0031 knocked them down. As a result Fashiar died on the spot and Abdus Sobhan was injured seriously. But the bus managed to escape. A case was lodged with Tala thana in this connection.

One killed in road accident in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 3: Arun Karmaker, 20, of village Palpara under Sadullapur thana was killed in road mishap on August 27.

The victim, while learning motor cycle driving on August 21, ran against a road side electric pole after he lost control over the two-wheeler. Due to the collision he received serious injuries and was immediately removed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition. He succumbed to his injuries after fighting for life for seven days.

One drowns in Savar

SAVAR, Sept 3: A young housewife drowned in the river Bangshi at Bathulia village in Dhamrai thana on Tuesday, police said here Friday, reports UNB.

They said the housewife, who could not be named immediately, drowned when she was taking her bath in the river.

Youth beaten to death in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Sept 3: A youth was beaten to death at village Manikdi in Shishpur thana for attempting to pluck a green coconut on Monday, reports UNB.

According to police, the victim Sajjad Chowdhury Munna, son of late Abdul Awal Chowdhury of the village intended to see the ailing mother of his friend with a green coconut for her. On his way he climbed a coconut tree of Baten Master of the same village without the permission of the owner.

When Baten Master and his men saw him climbing the tree, they dragged him down and him to death.

A case has been filed with

3 pistols recovered from a bus in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Sept 3 Acting on a secret information, Comilla Kotwali police led by Mir Nowsheer Ali, OC, Kotwali thana searched a Dhaka-bound passenger bus of Peoples Transport at Sachangacha bus terminal and recovered three pistols from a bag which was in the luggage box of the bus.

A case has been registered with Kotwali thana but none was arrested in this connection.

Woman takes her own life under train

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sep 3: She wanted to survive but the destiny led her to ultimate death following a suicidal incident that took place at Chapadhah Rail crossing under Gaibandha sadar thana recently.

Kohinoor Begum, 45, a house wife of village Kholahati under sadar thana being frustrated on life due to long-standing quarrel and family disagreement decided to end her life. On August 23 she stood near Chapadhah Rail crossing with a view to committing suicide. Meanwhile Lalmonirhat bound train 'Padmarag' was passing through. All on a sudden the victim threw herself under the wheels of the running train. But she lost only her two legs from knee. Having sustained grave injuries she appealed in heart rending voice to save her life but none of the witnesses came to her help. Poor Kohinoor however died after fighting for long two and a half hours.

News from Jhenidah

One crushed to death

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 3: A young man was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding truck near Barokhall in Magura thana on August 29 morning, it was learnt.

According to reports, Akam Uddin, 26, of village Dhalahara in the same thana was allegedly travelling on the top of the truck no: Dhaka Na-1137, at about 10.30 am. He suddenly fell down and was crushed to death under the wheels on the spot.

A case was filed with Magura thana in this connection and the body was sent to morgue for autopsy. Police seized the truck while the driver and helper managed to escape, police sources said.

UP office building may collapse at any time

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 3: The office building of Ghorashal union parishad in sadar thana of the district may collapse at any time, it is learnt.

According to reports, the building was constructed long ago and the same is not being repaired for years together. As a result the union parishad building became unfit for use as many big cracks developed on many places of the roof.

Mizanur Rahman Mukul, chairman, Ghorashal union parishad informed that many valuable documents of his office were damaged as rain water soaks in the rainy season. He alleged that he brought the matter into the notice of the authorities many times but in vain.

Young man electrocuted

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 3: A young boy was electrocuted at village Sabdarpur in Kotchandpur thana of the district recently, it is learnt.

According to reports, Bablur Rahman, 20, a cyclemaker of the village while working with his drilling machine was electrocuted and died instantly on the spot.

An UD case was lodged with Kotchandpur thana in this connection, it was learnt.

Mysterious tree lifters

From Our Correspondent



JHENIDAH: A branchless tree is seen near Chhalabhara on Jhenidah-Jessore road. — Star photo by Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Sept 3: A section of anti-social activists alongwith the help of some dishonest employees of Roads and Highway Department (RHD) have been allegedly looting the trees from Jhenidah-Jessore and Jhenidah-Chuadanga roads rampantly.

According to reports, some dishonest persons are involved with this evil doing for last few years. They have been cutting trees or large size branches of costly trees like shishu, Karol, mehogni, segun etc from both sides of the roads in the dead of nights and sending the same by truck or other vehicles to saw mills immediately after cutting.

Local people alleged that some dishonest people who are very influential are cutting the trees in the night. They are so powerful that common people can not open their leaps. They further alleged that sometimes a section of employees of Roads and Highways Department are seen with the miscreants who are involved with cutting trees.

While visiting the roads from Jhenidah to Kaliganj it was noticed that at least 90 trees were cut partially or fully. In this road mehogni, shishu and karol trees were the target of the miscreants.

Even some immature trees were cut. On Jhenidah-Jessore road almost all the trees were cut between village Bishoykhali and Kaliganj of the district.

On Jhenidah-Chuadanga road, at least 60 trees were cut by the miscreants. It looks as maximum trees are branchless. Due to frequent felling of trees, a good number of trees have died and a good number await death, it is learnt.

When contacted the Executive Engineer (XEN), Roads and Highways Department, told that they have been lodging cases against tree lifters but police could not nab the miscreants. Talking to Jhenidah and Kaliganj police it was learnt that RHD authorities do not show their eagerness in this regard as they do not inform police in time.

3 awarded life imprisonment for 2 separate murder cases

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 3: Nephew was awarded RI for life and penalised Taka six thousand otherwise to suffer for six months more in jail, this judgement was given on August 29, it was learnt.

According to reports, Abdullah Shah of village Hudashurat in sadar thana of the district allegedly killed his uncle Akul Hossain following a negligible issue on 9.2.92. He was killed when Abdullah charged lathi on his uncle's head.

Investigating the matter police submitted chargesheet against killer. After thorough hearing the court awarded the punishment.

Another report says, Abdul Aziz Khalifa, Additional District Judge of Jhenidah awarded life term and penalised Taka six thousand to two persons including the wife and elder brother in law recently.

Jamila Khatun and her brother were charged with the killing of Billal Hossain, Jamila's husband, during his visit to his father-in-law's house during Eid festival in 1992.

After the murder the accused hanged the body to a nearby tree and declared that he committed suicide.

Robbers kill housewife, loot 2 other houses

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 3: Eight robberies were committed and a housewife was killed by the dacoits during 48 hours in Jhenidah recently, it is learnt.

According to reports, a gang of armed dacoits numbering 15 to 20 entered into the house of Kartik Chandra of Palpara in Kotchandpur town of the district in the night of August 22. Sensing dacoits presence Kartik's wife Gol Rani, 35, came outside the house and dacoits threw bomb on her. Gol Rani received serious injuries and succumbed on the spot, it was learnt. The miscreants then looted goods from two other houses of the area, police sources said.

Another report says, five dacoities were committed in village Mohespur in Jhenidah district recently.

Good but could have been better

From Our Correspondent



Chayan after being rescued. — Star photo

SATKHIRA, Sept 3: After four days of kidnaping, Debhata thana police rescued Ashik Iqbal Chayan 4, son of Rabiulislam of village Jugkhali under Kalavoia thana from Parulia area under Debhata thana on August 29 last.

It is reported that Chayan while playing on roads by the side of his residence, a group of kidnapers, picked him up on August 25 last and, later they demanded Taka 2 lakh as ransom. The poor parent filing a case with Kalaroa PS, requested the district police administration for taking measures to rescue Chayan.

After launching drives police rescued the boy from the kidnapers but the kidnapers leaving Chayan, managed to escape.

Leakage of IU admission test papers, culprits yet not detected

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 3: Islami University authorities yet could not detect the culprits who were involved with the leakage of question papers of honours admission test of "Gha" unit recently, it was learnt.

When contacted Professor M Inamul Hoque, Vice Chancellor of the University told that a committee was formed with Professor Taher Ahmed, Chairman of the Al-Quran Department to detect how the question papers leaked.

Further the matter would be produce before the academic council soon, the Vice Chancellor informed.

Wife beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sep 3: Bell Begum, mother of a child, was beaten to death at village Balua under Shaghata thana on August 19.

According to a report, on the day of incident husband Abdur Rouf for some trifling matter started beating his wife Bell Begum mercilessly which led her to death on the spot. To conceal this, the husband hung her body from the bamboo made ceiling and declared this a suicide. But father of the victim Ibrahim filed a case with Shaghata Thana. The corpse was sent to Gaibandha for post mortem.

2 killed in Satkhira road accident

SATKHIRA, Sept 3: Two people were killed in a road accident on Khulna-Satkhira highway at Subhashani in Tala thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said Mashiar Rahman, 35, of Kalia village died on the spot while Abdus Sobhan, 23, of Teisi village succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital.

A case was filed with Tala thana in this connection.

Body found in gunny bag

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 3: The body of an unknown young man 30 was recovered from Chandpur area of south Surma in Sylhet Kotwali police station on Thursday last.

Police said, the body which was found in a gunny bag was bearing a number of marks of injury including acid burn of its face. Police apprehend that the victim was killed a few days back.

The body was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Morgue for postmortem after registration of an UD Case with Kotwali PS.

Many flood victims still remain stranded on embankment

From Ranesh Maitra



Lal Banu, with her face half covered with saree, looks helpless standing in front of her temporary hut built on the embankment. — Star photo



Jurao Mollah — Star photo

bankment passed. This corefugees found flood-refugees from Haturia-Nakalia union taking shelter. Nearly 100 families were residing in their temporary huts — mostly day-labourers and landless peasants. Some families from nearby Shahzadpur thana also settled there temporarily.

Asgar Ali Sheikh, 55, of Char Nakalia said, "I have no land of my own. I have a family of eight. I am day-labourer now living on the bundh with all the members in one hut. I received a total of 25 kgs of rice and wheat as relief but no cash money in last two months."

Jurao Molla, 55, also a day-labourer said, "With seven members of my family I was compelled to come and take shelter here when my house was completely sub-



PABNA: So many men, women and children found over flood control embankment in Sujananagar thana on Saturday. — Star photo



Asgar Ali Sheikh, a helpless flood victim in Char Nakalia in Bera thana. — Star photo

merged. With no work at all, I received only 25 kg of wheat and rice along with one old garment. I want to return as soon as water recedes completely.

Jarina Bewa, a widow said, "My eldest son is the only earning member of my family that comprises six members. The son is a boatman but has no boat of his own. We have no land and reside in a leased land in Char Nakalia but that house was also damaged by the recent flood. On three occasions we got 25 kg of grains and one old garment as relief. No cash was provided. Water was yet to recede completely from the village," Jarina concluded.

Jainab, 30, of village Kamarpur, now eroded by

Jamuna, of Chouhati thana is also living here on this bundh with five children. "I work in other's house and maintain the family, but cannot meet the needs. I received food-relief of 25 kgs and one old garment in two months.

Asma Khaton, also from Umarpur, narrated, "I have got four children and I maintain the family working in other's houses. I can't say where my husband was staying or whether he would come back at all. So far I got 15 kg grains and one old garment. I don't know what will happen to me when water recedes fully and the camp on the bundh is dismantled when all of us leave for their homes."

Mohammad Mollah, 65, of Char Nakalia, a boatman, said, "I am living on the bundh for the last two months with my wife, four sons and three daughters. Two married daughters live elsewhere with their husbands, I am too old and lost my left hand during Liberation War, so I can't work. My sons maintain the family. We have 8 to 10 bighas of land for cultivation but all were submerged under knee deep water. I shall go back home immediately after complete recession of water but I do not have the means to reconstruct the damaged houses."

The chairman said, Dhalarchar union is the only union which was completely inundated, all the houses were either completely or partially damaged, and standing crops on the entire cropland were fully damaged. Total population of the union is 7,000 and 30 per cent of them were still residing elsewhere. About 2,000 of the population had employment but now, for last two months, they do not have any work. Condition of the people of the villages Baro Durgapur, Chhajuthi, Kakshumul, Char Durgapur, Komarpur, Ramnarayanpur, Durirchar, Mirpur, Ramkrishnapur, Khayerdikandi and Dhalamanda is even worse."

The chairman added, "In terms of money, the union suffered a total loss of about Tk two crore but relief materials received so far include 30 metric tons of rice, 20 pieces of saree, seven metric tons of wheat, 10 tons of biscuits only."