## Waterlogging hits cultivation in 3 thanas of south-western zone

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 14: At least 10 lakh people are groaning under burnt of economic hardship and miseries in 10 thanas of three districts in south-western zone of the country as waterlogging damaged huge agricultural prod-ucts in last 13 years, according to district Agriculture Extension Department.

According to local sources, nearby one lakh hectares of cultivable lands in Sadar, Obhainagar, Monirampur and Keshabpur thanas of Jessore. Daulatpur. Metro, Botiaghata, Fultala and Dumuria of Khulna and Tala thana of Satkhira districts have been abandoned for cultivation. Infiltration of saline water from sea and steady growth of waterlogging in the adjoining heels, have led to this situation.

It is learnt that total damage caused to various agricultural products including paddy, vegetables, and other crops, valuable trees and cattle heads during this period exceeds over Taka 400 crore.

According to official statistical report, loss of crops amounts to Taka 18 crore 50 lakh against production of 74 lakh maunds of paddy per year. This figure is estimated of the rate of crop production of 10 maunds per bigha and selling rate Taka 250 per maund. This total loss on account of crop damage comes to Taka crore during the last 13 years. According to another source a total of two lakh families have become victims of circumstances arising out of waterlogging in the respective areas.

In vegetable cultivation, there has been loss worth

55 posts of pry

teachers lying

vacant in

Madaripur

total of 55 posts of primary

teachers has been lying vacant

for a long time hampering ed-

ucation in six thanas of Shari-

cation Department sources.

posts of three headmasters

and four assistant teachers are

lying vacant in sadar, two hea-

dmasters and eight assistant

teachers in Badargani, two

headmasters and five assistant

teachers in Damuddah, two

headmasters and three assis-

tant teachers in Gosherhat, 11

headmasters in Jajira and four

headmasters and 11 assistant

education officer, one assistant

education officer have also

been lying vacant for a long

Complete history

of Bangla

literature needed

in greater interest

ers at a seminar on Saturday

underscored the need for writ-

ing a correct and complete

history of Bangla literature in

the greater national interest

opening of a two-day seminar

on Bangla of Twentieth Cen-

tury and the Problems in

Writing the History of Bangla

seminar was organised by the

Institute of Bangladesh Studies

Chancellor, Rajshahi Univer

sity. Prof M Yusuf Ali, the sem

inar was addressed, among

others, by National Professor

Syed Ali Ahsan. Pro-Vice

Chancellor Dr Altaf Hossain

Director General, Bangla

Academy Dr Mansur Musa

former director general of Na-

tional Museum Dr. Enamul

partment, Dhaka University Dr.

Mohammad Moniruzzaman

IBS director Mahmud Shah

Qurashi, Prof. Nurul Islam, Dr.

Saifuddin Chowdhury and Dr

tagong, Barisal and other parts

of the country are attending

the seminar. Indian Assistant

High Commissioner T Bora was

will be read out at the seminar

by eminent scholars of the

inar that Bangla is a multi-lingual mass literature. A complete history of Bangla litera-

ture was first written by Roy Bahadur Dinesh Chandra Sen

but the writings of the materials were not scientifically examined. For which there was

some mistakes in continuation

of history of Bangla literature.

Arms recovery

drive: 410

held in Sherpur

arrested 410 people for pos-

sessing illegal arms and am-

munition from five thanas of the district during the last

three weeks, reports UNB.

SHERPUR. June 14. Police

The recovered arms and

ammunition included 11 pipe guns, one revolver, 34 rounds

of builets, 12 cartridges, two bayonets. 59 cocktails. 20

Ramdaos and two knives. The

drive was launched from May

20 to June 6.

It was informed at the sem-

A total of fourteen papers

also present on the occasion.

Scholars from Dhaka. Chit-

Zainul Abedin

country.

Huq. Professor of Bangla De-

(IBS), Rajshahi University.

Held at Senate Bhaban, the

Presided over by Vice

This call was made at the

reports BSS.

Literature."

RAJSHAHI, June 14 Speak

Besides, posts of five thana

teachers in Naria thana

According to Primary Edu-

atpur district, reports BSS.

MADARIPUR, June 14: A

Taka 9 crore 40 lakh. This figure is the result of weekly income at the rate of Taka 100 per family and Taka 4.800 per family per year. It appears a to-tal of Taka 122 crore were

lost in this side in 13 years. Loss of valuable trees in the waterlogged areas during the period under review has been colossal, according to local forest and agriculture department office sources. A source said that the actual amount of loss on account of this head is over Taka 5 crore if the value of each tree is considered worth Taka 1000.

According to unofficial survey. 10 per cent of the total houses of two lakh families. were destroyed due to onrush of flash floods from time to time, during this period. Thus the amounts to Taka two crore at the rate of Taka 10,000 per house. Besides, a good number of schools, madrasahs and mosque have also been dam-

According to another source, due to waterlogging that has adversely affected agricultural work in the area. more than two lakh men have become jobless, three lakh men have left the area to try luck elsewhere giving up their own agricultural profession.

Thousands of people still living there, have been attacked with various health hazard. Infiltration of saline water in massive quantity and consequent crisis of fresh drinking water has brought this situation, according to the survey report. During a visit to the water-

logged areas recently. This correspondent talked with some people to find out what

was cause of this misery. According to the affected people, prior to sixties, they cultivated land and grew abundant crops, depending on the climate. In several places, people at their own constructed wooden made "Agori" gate to control onrush of saline water. During high tide, Agort gate remained closed and it remained open only during

this practice. To ensure growth of more food by effecting flood control along the coastal belt and thereby stopping infiltration of saline water from the sea and also by constructing embankment the them. WAPDA came into being sometime in 1960. Accordingly lot of sluice-gates were built and local people were benefited on implemen-

ebb-tide. Farmers were used to

tation of the projects.
Initially. farmers got
bumper crops from local 52 beels of the area. But it was for a short time. Whole situation went on a drastic change and it was proved that the projects, designed by foreign experts without taking suggestion of local people into account, did not serve the pur-

In 1980, waterlogging took severe shape within span of three years spreading over 200 miles. During the visit this correspondent talked to water experts and water development board authorities besides local people were also consulted. They informed that drastic fall in navigations in the river, has created waterlogging. Lack of river dredging for long aggravated by dead streams from upper head of river Padma following the ad-

verse effects of Farakka barrage have helped silt up river beds connecting the coastal belt. A visit to the area will show that the river-beds are much higher than those of 52 beels. As such, excess water

can not move out from beels. Again quite a good number of structures including bridge, culverts sluice gates shrimp culture farms and embankments have been erected indiscriminately and in unplanned way hampering normal waterflow by these rivers and beels.

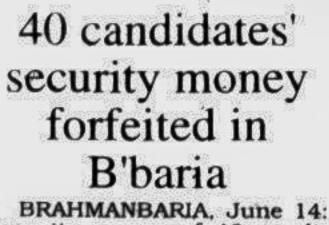
Alleged negligence to maintain sluice gates, faulty water management system and corruption in canal re-excavation have intensified growth of waterlogging.

. A source said that it became routine for the government to allocate fund worth crores, of Taka in the name of reclamation of the waterlogged beels every year. After sometime, it was proved that the projects did nothing to remove the problem.

According to sources, during fiscal 1987-88, 88-89, 89-90. 90-91 and 91-92 silts deposited in canals were mixed with water to clear the outlet but in vain.

In 1988, Khulna coastal rehabilitation project was taken up at a cost of Taka 64 crore. Its implementation was stopped soon after the local public opposed and donor agencies expressed dissatisfactions over the manner, the project was being implemented.

The coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project-2, taken up later on was also dropped due to some technical faults.



Security money of 40 candidates, out of total 57 in six constituencies of the district. was forfeited in Wednesday's unsettled general election, reports UNB.

Election Office sources said a former state minister of the Zia government, Dr Mohamm-ad Faridul Huda, who contested the polls as an indepen-dent candidate in Brahmanbaria 2 and 3 constituencies, lost security money in both

Fazlul Haq Amini, a front-ranking leader of Sammilita Sangram Parishad, an alliance of some pro-Islamic groupings, lost security in all the three seats -Brahmanbaria 2, 3 and 5 — he contested.

Jamaat-e-Islami, which faced a complete rout in the elections, put up candidates in all the six constituencies, but all of them lost their security due to poor show.

Meanwhile, a procession of Awami League came under at-tack at Srighar village in Nasirnagar thana of the district on Thursday which left seven people injured.

Four of them were admitted to Nasirnagar Health Complex for treatment.

Awami League blamed local unit of Jatiya Party for the attack. No case was filed till filing of this report.

#### New dept in IPSA

GAZIPUR, June 14: Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) has started a new department of agroforestry and environment subject to the approval of institute's academic council and board of regents, an institute press release said recently, reports BSS

The department has been opened considering the importance of education on environment in agriculture of the present time.

The press release said the admission of students to the new department would start

### Training course for entrepreneurs

BARISAL. June 14: A weeklong training course for entrepreneurs concluded at the office premises of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry Corporation (BSCIC) at Kaunia on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Presided over by the deputy-general manager of Barisal unit of BSCIC MS Noorjahan Motleb, the concluding day function was attended by Mr M Alikuzzaman, regional director. BSCIC, Khulna.

A total of 148 persons were given training under self-employment programme of the government

Meanwhile. Taka one crore were disbursed among the trained persons in this divi-

### Mother finds missing son after 5 yrs

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR. June 14: A child lost in the tidal wave caused by the 29th April. 1991 devastating cyclone was found after long five years by his

mother recently. The victim Rahamat Ullah of Suturia village under Dhalghata union in Maheshkhali island, who was three and a half years old then, was washed away by a 18-22 feet

tidal surge during the cyclone on the night of April 29, 1991 Five members of the eight member family of Badruddin. father of Rahamat Ullah, were also washed away by the tidal

On the dreadful night, illfated Rahamat Ullah was lost in the tidal wave from the lap of his mother Sakhina Begum. She, however returned to the shore next day from the coastal area of Chokoria thana

Sakhina on May 15 last went to the house of Jafar Alam of neighbouring union for some business and with her utter surprise she found her son Rahamat Ullah playing at the courtyard of the house. On enquiry, she came to learn that he was rescued by the house inmates from Paraban area after two days of the cyclone.

Since then, he was brought up by the Jafar family who is now a student of class two.

### Indiscriminate use of fertiliser destroying fertility of soil From Our Correspondent

set-back in Magura

From Our Correspondent

observance of Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti recently.

CHANDPUR, June 14: The indiscriminate use of chemical fertiliser and continued cultivation of same crops on same agricultural land for years together are destroying the fertility of soil in the district.

knowledge about soil components use chemical fertilisers indiscriminately to get maximum yield from the land which causes decrease in fertility of the soil. An agriculture extension of-

Farmers having little

ficer said that the peasants are in the habit of cultivating same crops on the same land without any interval and hardly use organic fertilisers which possess some ingredients to retain the production capability

Most of the cultivable lands of the district are used twice or thrice for producing crops each year. To make the production highest, the farmers

MAGURA, June 14: Cattle

farming in four thanas includ-

ing Magura Sadar, Muhamad-

pur. Sripur and Shalikha of the

district has been facing serious

set-back due to acute scarcity

of fodder, high prices and non-

availability of essential

medicine and lack of required

According to the reports,

with the massive cultivation of

paddy and other crops, most of

the fields were turned into

crop land and now there is no

adequate and excess lands

which can be used for grazing

of the cattle. As such, the cat-

tle-heads now live on hey and

other substitute foods like

maize, pulses, wheat rubbish

and mechanised balanced fod-

der which are not available as

thana told this Correspondent

that high prices of fodder

threw the cattle farmers into a

According to the sources

the veterinary hospitals mainly

great economic hardship.

Some farmers in Sripur

amenities at artificial insemi-

nation (Al) centres.

per requirements.

chemical fertilisers including urea, TSP and potash for one bigha of land. Organic fertilisers like cowdung are rarely used. Thus the production capability of land is rapidly decreasing in the district.

use a total of 60 to 70 kg of

JHENIDAH: Children rendering songs at a function at the Sailkupa Shishu Academy in

The agricultural experts suggested that chemical fertilisers should be used after proper testing of soil and use of organic fertilisers a must to retain the production capability of the soil. Otherwise, the yielding rate will further come down and there will be a time when the output will fail to meet the production cost, he

The agricultural experts also suggested that those who are directly involved in cultivation should be trained about the modern technique of cultivation by arranging short trai ning camps in the rural areas.

"located at district and thana

head-quarters, can not extend

treatment facilities to the cat-

tle-heads of remote areas, in-

cluding Lagalband, Nakol,

Ramnagar. Gangarrampur,

Khalia, Bunagati, Alamkhali,

Sharsuna, Binodpur, Nohata

and Rajpat. The situation turns

worse when cattle diseases

break out in an epidemic form.

eases like mouth and foot dis-

ease (MFD) "Badla". Pox and

Anthrax (Tarka) breakout and

often in the rural areas of the

It was learnt that the dis-

## Over Tk 94 lakh Cattle farming faces

BARISAL, June 14: Barisal Power Development Board

Out of a total of 3,862 cases 3,593 were settled in the pe-

The mobile court snapped 815 defaulters connections. the source added. Meanwhile,

He was alleged that due to absence of proper medical aides, a large number of cattle die every year. Md. Najimuddin, a senior

teacher in Abaipur RS Institution' who received training on Animal Health Management Extension Programme (AHMEP), said that the artificial insemination (Al) programme is not implement properly due to lack of awareness about Al programme in the rural areas.

### BAU VC for modernisation of agriculture

MYMENSINGH, June 14 **BAU Vice-Chancellor Professor** Dr. Shaha Muhammad Farouk has underlined the importance of modernisation of agriculture to increase production, says a press release.

Speaking as chief guest at the certificate and prize giving ceremony of winter vegetable cultivation in the school premises organized by the Extension Centre of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAUEC) on Saturdays, the Vice Chancellor urged also laid special emphasis on extension of agricultural technology through village schools for strengthening the national economy.

Presided over by BAUEC Director Professor Dr. Md Mahfuzul Haque, the function was attended by Indian communication specialist Dr. R.K Samanta and Professor Dr. M Abul Kashem. Head BAU Agricultural Extension Education Department as special guests. Dr. Md Rezaul Karim, Abdus Sobhan, BAUEC Associates Directors and school teacher Md. Jalaluddin also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the Vice-Chancellor awarded certificates and prizes among the 38 students drawn from various primary and high schools, orphanage, Madrasha of Mymensingh Sadar, Trishala and Gouripur area.

#### Foundation of multi-storied shopping complex in Ctg laid CHITTAGONG, June 14:

-Star photo

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury laid the foundation stone of a Taka 7.5 crore multi-storeyed commercial complex at Feeringee Bazar here at a simple ceremony, on Friday, reports BSS.

The function was presided over by local ward commissioner Zahirul Alam Dobash and addressed, among others, by Advocate Mohammad Kamal and chief engineer of the city corporation Rezaul Ameen

Mayor Mohiuddin said, development works are being carried on in each ward of CCC without any disparity reflecting hopes and aspirations of the city dwellers.

The complex will be built on about one lakh square feet land and it will have about five hundred shops with modern amenities.

### outstanding bills realised in Barisal

(PDB) realised Tk 94,23,953 outstanding bills from the consumers of six southern districts under Barisal circle during four years and four months till April 30 last, reports

According to an official source, Magistrate Bhola Nath Dutta held mobile courts on 139 days in the area during this period and realised Tk. 28,77,461/- as fine from the illegal users of electricity.

71 persons have been awarded iail terms.

#### 80 pc road repair work completed in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, June 14: The repair and reconstructions work of the three kutcha roads in Kalmakanda and Kendua thanas under Netrakona district is going on in full swing. reports BSS

An official source said the roads are Kalmakanda bazar and Pasgao GCC road, Kendua and Baikerhati bazar road, and Kendua-Cirang bazar road.

The source said a total of 780 metric tons of wheat was utilised for implementation of these projects.

Meanwhile 80 per cent work of these roads have been completed. The rest would be completed soon, the source

### Facilities Deptt development works

TANGAIL. June 14: Facilities Department is extending its development works to three colleges and constructing buildings for four primary schools in the current fiscal year at a total cost of Tk 19.73 lakhs, reports BSS.



MYMENSINGH BAU vice-chancellor l'rofessor Dr. Shah Muhammad Farouk distributing prizes among the students who took part in winter vegetables cultivation in school premises - BAU photo organised by the Extension Centre of Agricultural University.



KURIGRAM: Prof ABM Majibar Rahman, Principal of Government Girls' College distributing prizes to the winners of annual athletic meet of the college here recently. - Star photo

# Faridpur district

## Posts of 36 doctors out of 119 remain vacant

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 14: Medical treatment across the district is being hampered owing to shortage of doctors in different hospitals and health

Out of 119 posts of doctors in Faridpur general hospital thana and union health complexes. 36 posts have been lying vacant for a long time to the utter sufferings of the patients. Medical officers in union health complexes and consultants in thana health complexes seem to be very much reluctant to stay all those stations and on survey it is found that they get transferred within two or three months through persuasion after their posting.

Besides, the posts of consultant in medicine, surgery and orthopedic surgery are now vacant in Faridpur general

The posts of consultants in medicine, gynaecology, dental surgeon and a medical officer in Char Bhadrasan thana health complex (THC), resident medical officer (RMO), gynaecology consultant, junior consultant

and one medical officer under Sadarpur THC and also a medical officer in union health complex in the thana, one medical officer (MO) in Bhanga THC; resident medical officer (RMO), dental surgeon and four medical officers in Nagar kanda THC and four union hea-Ith complexes are lying vacant respectively. In Boalmari THC posts of gynaecology consultant, dental surgeon and three medical officers of three union health complexes and in Alfadanga THC the post of gynaecology consultant, dental surgeon and a medical officer and also that of a medical officer in union. health complex under the thana are lying vacant.

Moreover, posts of gynaecology consultant, medicine consul tant and anaesthesian and two medical officers in two union health clinics under Madhukhali thana are lying vacant.

it is widely felt that the posts should immediately be filled up to ensure medicare as well as health for all by the end of year 2000, as pledged by the former government

### Interest-free loan project in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 14:A programme of interest-free loan disbursement has been undertaken by the Social Welfare Directorate at Palashbari Thana in the district during the cur rent fiscal year with a view to alleviate poverty.

On this occasion a get-together of cross section of people was held at Palashbari Thana Parishad auditorium on May 26. Mr Mizanuddin, Director, Social Welfare Directorate was present as chief guest Presided over by Bikash Chandra Saha, TNO Palashbari, the gathering was addressed by Shaferrai Hossain, Deputy Commissioner, Nilufer Begum, Deputy Director, Social Wel fare, Rangpur, Delwar Hossain, and Shahidur Rahman.

Later the chief guest formally inaugurated the programme and disbursed Taka fwo lakh 50 thousand among 130 members of different rural organisations. The loan was given under interest-free programme to wipe out poverty with petty business.

Meanwhile a highway robbery was committed at Goreya Pather under Palashbari Thana on Gaibandha-Palashbari highway on May 25.

A case was filed with Palashbari thana



Jhenidah: Mirzapur Amena Khatun Junior high school was blown down by storm in Sailkupa thana recently. - Star photo | sellers.

### Note book sale on rise in Barguna . BARGUNA, June 14: Despite

the government ban, a section of dishonest book sellers are openly selling note books throughout the district, re-

The government has imposed the restriction on pubishing and selling of note books up to class eight with a view to discouraging the dependence of the students on prepared answers. But school teachers alleged

that the dishonest traders were publishing low standard note books with fake names and address. These note books are full of errors and distorted facts, they

Local guardians and students urged the authorities concerned to take necessary action against the illegal book

