

6000 new phone lines in Khulna from Dec

KHULNA, July 9: Three new digital telephone exchanges with a capacity of 6,000 lines will start operation in Khulna City area in December this year, reports UNB.

Official sources said another exchange consisting of 9,000 telephone lines would also be launched at the middle of next year.

Meanwhile, work on installation of cables for commissioning of 15,000 lines has already started and construction of an exchange building is also underway.

Out of the 15,000 lines, 9,000 lines would be commissioned under Khulna Exchange, 4,000 lines under Daulatpur, 1,000 lines in Daulatpur and 1,000 lines in Sirmoni Exchanges.

10,000 acres of land in Madaripur deprived of irrigation facility

MADRIPUR, July 9: In the absence of re-excavation of the river Nenna Kumar, irrigation in about 10,000 acres of land in two thanas of the district is being seriously affected in dry seasons, reports UNB.

Local people said, in absence of river survey activities, the river had lost its navigability and remained dry in winter season.

Farmers of Rajor and Sadar thanas cannot provide necessary irrigation water to their cropfields in the dry season sustaining huge crop loss.

Farmers said if the 16 kilometre bed of the river, from Tekarhat in Rajor thana to Mastalapur in Sadar thana, is re-excavated properly at least 10,000 acres of land at Madaripur would come under irrigation facilities. As a result, crop production would be multiplied bringing economic solvency to the common farmers.

Besides, re-excavation of some small canals including Amgram Pakhula, Sreenadi, Goal Bhata, Hossainpur, Sharibabad, Ramnagar and Diknagar Pilkpara in Rajor thana has become an urgent necessity.

Local leaders have urged the government to take necessary steps in this regard for the interest of the flourishing of agriculture.

Contraband items recovered in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGONJ, July 9: Contraband worth Taka about 75 lakhs has been recovered from the Sonamasjid-Bholahat border recently.

Led by Major Razzaq, BDR personnel raided the Sonamasjid-Bholahat border areas on July 6 late night and recovered 3 trucks of Indian mangoes worth Tk 12 lakh, one truck of pulse worth Tk 6 lakhs, 55 bags of sugar worth Tk 1 lakh and 50 thousand, 114 bags of salt worth Tk 1 lakh, 25 maunds of molasses worth Tk 30 thousand and 3 trucks worth Tk 54 lakhs. These recovered goods and vehicles have been deposited to the Chapainawabganj customs.

Tk 2.6 cr electricity bills realised in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, July 9: Bangladesh Power Development Board realised outstanding electricity bill of about Tk 2.67 crore in last month, reports UNB.

The amount was Tk 25.88 crore higher against the target of Tk 2.41 crore from 1613 subscribers under 12 power distribution centres in the district.

The Executive Engineer of the region issued appreciation letters to the concerned officials of Sadar, Nandina, Melebandi, Islampur, Bakshaganj, Dewanganj, Sharishabari, Sherrupur (Sadar), distribution centres.

Price hike of raw materials Hundreds of artisans involved in stitching quilts disappearing

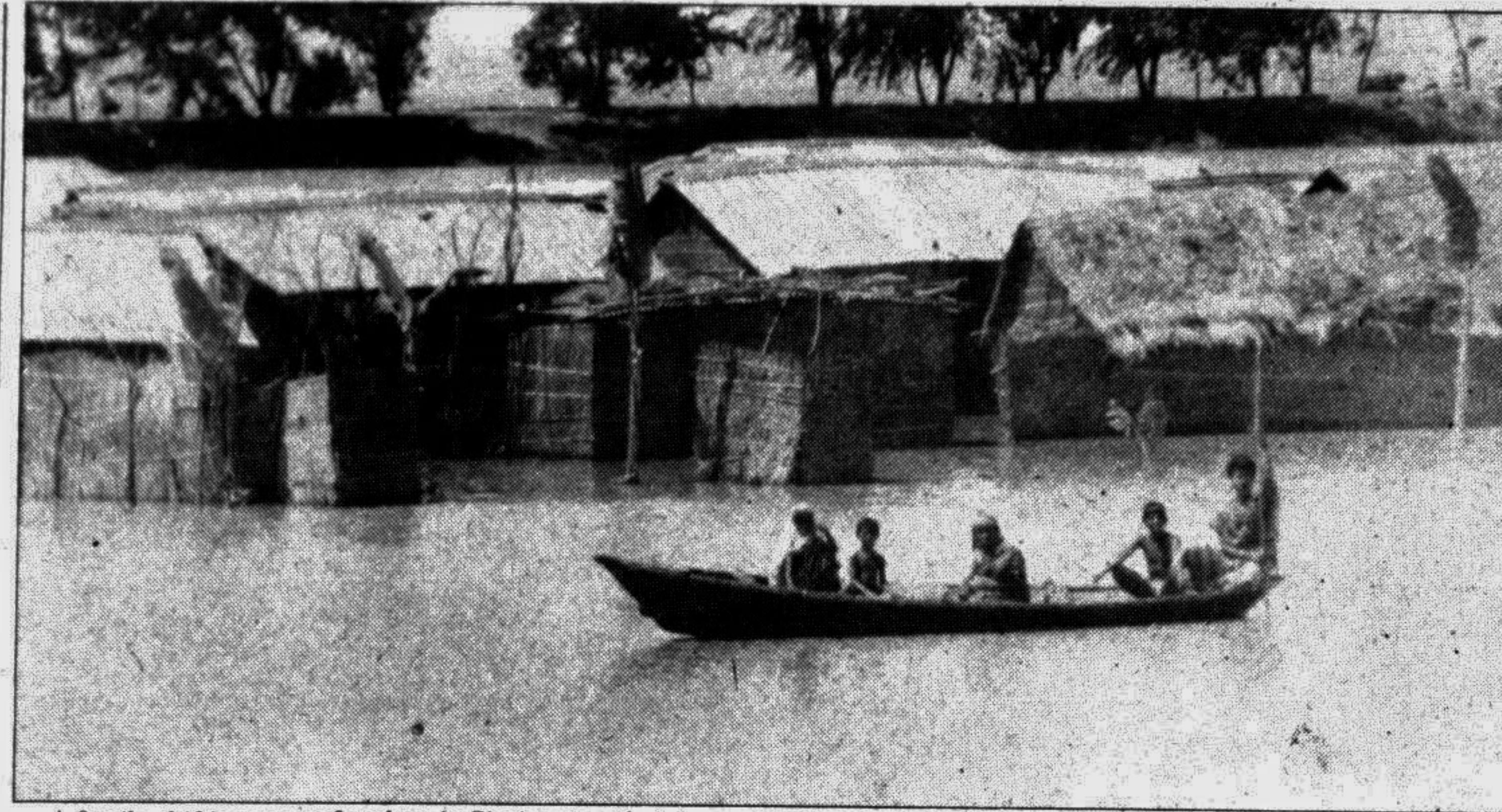
BARGUNA, July 9: Quilt, popularly known as Kantha, made of used clothes by the rural womenfolk, is disappearing from almost all the five thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Local people said several hundred artisans were involved in stitching kantha with colourful embroidery depicting scenic and aesthetic beauty of the rural Bangladesh. But the gradual increase in labour cost and price hike of raw materials have drastically reduced its demand in the area, once considered as a centre for quilt production.

The production cost of each kantha, both embroidered and plain, ranges from Tk 200 to 300.

With the expansion of family size, women artisans nowadays cannot afford enough time in stitching quilt as they have to remain busy with their household works.

According to local elite, the century old cottage industry can employ a large number of people, including rural women, with government participation.



A family shifting to a safer place in Sirajganj as their house has been inundated by flood water.

— Star photo

Flood situation worsens in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 9: Flood situation has further worsened in the district owing to continuous downpour and onrush of hilly waters following rise in the water level in the rivers of Jamuna, Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

In the district fresh areas went under water, according to official and unofficial reports received till Monday.

The river Jamuna was flowing 104 cm above danger mark at Bahadurabad ghat and Brahmaputra was flowing 41 cm above its danger mark at Dewanganj point Monday evening, according to the district WDB sources.

The flood situation in the lowlying areas of the district and its surrounding areas remained unchanged.

The total number of flood affected union stands at 38 out of 67 in seven thanas and some areas of Jamalpur and Sharibabad pourashavas were also submerged.

According to district administration sources, about

50,000 people of the district have been affected; over 800 houses have been totally damaged and 7000 houses were partially damaged by the flood.

A total of 2000 km katcha road have gone under flood water, seven bridges, 12 culverts were totally damaged.

About one lakh acres of crops land had gone under flood water. The newly planted aman paddy and its seed bed are totally or partially damaged.

About 500 fish bed worth of Tk 75 lakh were washed away by the flood waters.

About 1,50,000 people have been marooned. One hundred educational institutions have been closed.

The government has sanctioned Tk 50,000 in cash, 50 metric tons of wheat as relief for the flood victims in the district.

The Daily Star correspondent while visiting the affected areas in four thanas of the district gathered that road link between district town and

Some voluntary organisations NGOs, and opposition political parties distributed relief goods among the flood victims.

About 5000 people have taken shelter in the building of different institutions. They are suffering from want of flood water, medicine and other's facilities. But no camp for the shelter less was not open till Monday.

Altogether, 1,466 hectares have been cultivated in Barisal district, 28 hectares in Pirojpur, 54 hectares in Jhalakathi, 81 hectares in Patuakhali, 10 hectares in Barguna, 186 hectares in Bhola, 27,881 hectares in Faridpur, 13,485 hectares in Madaripur, 5,337 hectares in Gopalganj, 12,725 hectares in Rajbari and 7,111 hectares in Shariatpur districts, the source added.

Intensive jute cultivation in 11 S-dists

BARISAL, July 9: A total of

68,366 hectares of land have been brought under intensive jute cultivation in 11 southern districts of Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone (BAEZ) during the current rainy season, reports BSS.

The districts include Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

Production target of jute has been fixed at 8,05,008 bales during this season.

Of the total, 63,238 hectares were brought under tosho variety and the rest under local variety.

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River position

Waters in most of the rivers continued receding during the last 24 hours till 6 cm on Tuesday but four rivers — the Brahmaputra, Ganges, Surma and Kushiyara — were still flowing above their respective danger marks, reports UNB.

According to a Flood Information Centre bulletin, rivers in the Brahmaputra basin marked rise and fall while most of the rivers in Ganges basin registered fall.

However, in the Meghna basin out of 10 rivers, 6 marked rise while for receded during the period. In South-Eastern Hill basin six rivers registered fall and four rise.

The Brahmaputra at Bahadurabad was flowing just on the danger line following a further fall by 6 cm.

The Ganges at Bhagiyakul also receded by 5 cm and was flowing 12 cm above the danger mark.

The Surma at Kanaihat marked further rise by 2 cm and was on 38 cm of its red mark.

The Kushiyara at Amalsidh further rose by 18 cm and was flowing 43 cm above danger level. The river rose by 11 cm at Shela point and was flowing 19 cm above its red mark.

Following are the danger-level and water-level positions of the rivers at 46 points in the four basins.

River's Name	Station Name	Danger Level	Water Level
Brahmaputra Basin			
Dharia	Kurigram	26.50	25.73
Teesta	Dalia	52.25	51.55
Teesta	Kauna	30.00	28.71
Brahmaputra	Noonkhawa	27.89	25.94
Brahmaputra	Chilnari	24.00	23.38
Brahmaputra	Bahadurabad	19.50	19.50
Brahmaputra	Sirajganj	13.75	13.34
Brahmaputra	Aricha	9.14	8.73
Old Brahmaputra	Jamalpur	17.00	16.11
Old Brahmaputra	Mymensingh	12.15	11.11
Burganga	Dhaka	6.00	4.60
Lakhya	Narayanganj	5.50	4.73
Turag	Mirpur	5.94	4.89
Turag	Tongi	6.98	4.80
Kaliganga	Taraphat	8.36	7.30
Ganges Basin			
Karatoa	Panchagarh	70.75	68.28
Punarbhaba	Dinajpur	33.50	30.24
Mahananda	Cnawabganj	21.00	16.60
Jamuna	Naogaon	15.24	12.90
Ganges	Pankha	21.50	18.10
Ganges	Rajshahi	18.50	14.67
Ganges	Hardinge Bridge	14.25	11.02
Ganges	Goalanda	8.50	8.28
Ganges	Bhaigiyakul	6.00	6.12
Gorai	Gorai Rly Brdg	12.75	9.49
Kumar	Faridpur	7.50	4.16
Meghna Basin			
Surma	Kanaihat	13.20	13.58
Surma	Sylhet	11.25	10.81
Surma	Sunamganj	8.25	8.25
Kushiyara	Amalsidh	15.85	16.28
Kushiyara	Sheola	13.50	13.69
Manu	Manu Rly Brdg	17.07	14.71
Manu	Moulvibazar	11.75	9.60
Khowai	Habiganj	9.50	7.22
Sumeswari	Durgapur	13.00	11.80
Meghna	Bhairab Bazar	6.25	5.43
Gumti	Comilla	11.75	9.28
Meghna	Chandpur LWL	4.00	4.00
South Eastern Hill Basin			
Muhuri	Parshuram	13.00	19.74
Halda	Narayanganj	14.63	13.00
Halda	Panchpukuria	9.50	5.27
Sangu	Bandarban	15.25	6.78
Sangu	Dohazari	7.00	
Matamuhuri	Lama	12.25	6.30
Matamuhuri	Chirpinga	5.75	3.76
Feni	Ramgarh	17.37	12.95

Aman cultivation programme in 10 southwestern dists

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 9: About 7 lakh hectares of land will be brought under 'aman' cultivation during the current season in 10 southwestern districts.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), they have taken up a massive programme for cultivating 'ropo' (transplanted) 'aman' in 7,03,788 hectares of land in 10 South-Western districts under the project of 'Nibr Sharakaln Fasol Utpadon' (intense crops production in autumn season). These 10 districts are Magura, Jhenidah, Narail, Jessore, Khulna and Kushtia.

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