

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 Khalishpur, 1,000 lines in Daulatpur and 1,000 lines in Shironomi Exchanges.

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

MADARIPUR, July 9: In the absence of re-excavation of the river Nimna 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 Rajoir and Sadar thanas cannot provide necessary irrigation water to their crops in the dry season sustaining huge crop loss.

Farmers said if the 16 kilometre bed of the river, from Tekarhat in Rajoir thana to Mastafapur in Sadar thana, is re-excavated properly at least 10,000 acres of land 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 Bhatan, Hossainpur, Sharistabad, Ramnagar and Diknagar Pikepara in Rajoir 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
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, 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, Melandah, Islampur, Bakshaijan, Dewanganj, Sharishabari, Sherpur (Sadar), distribution centres.

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

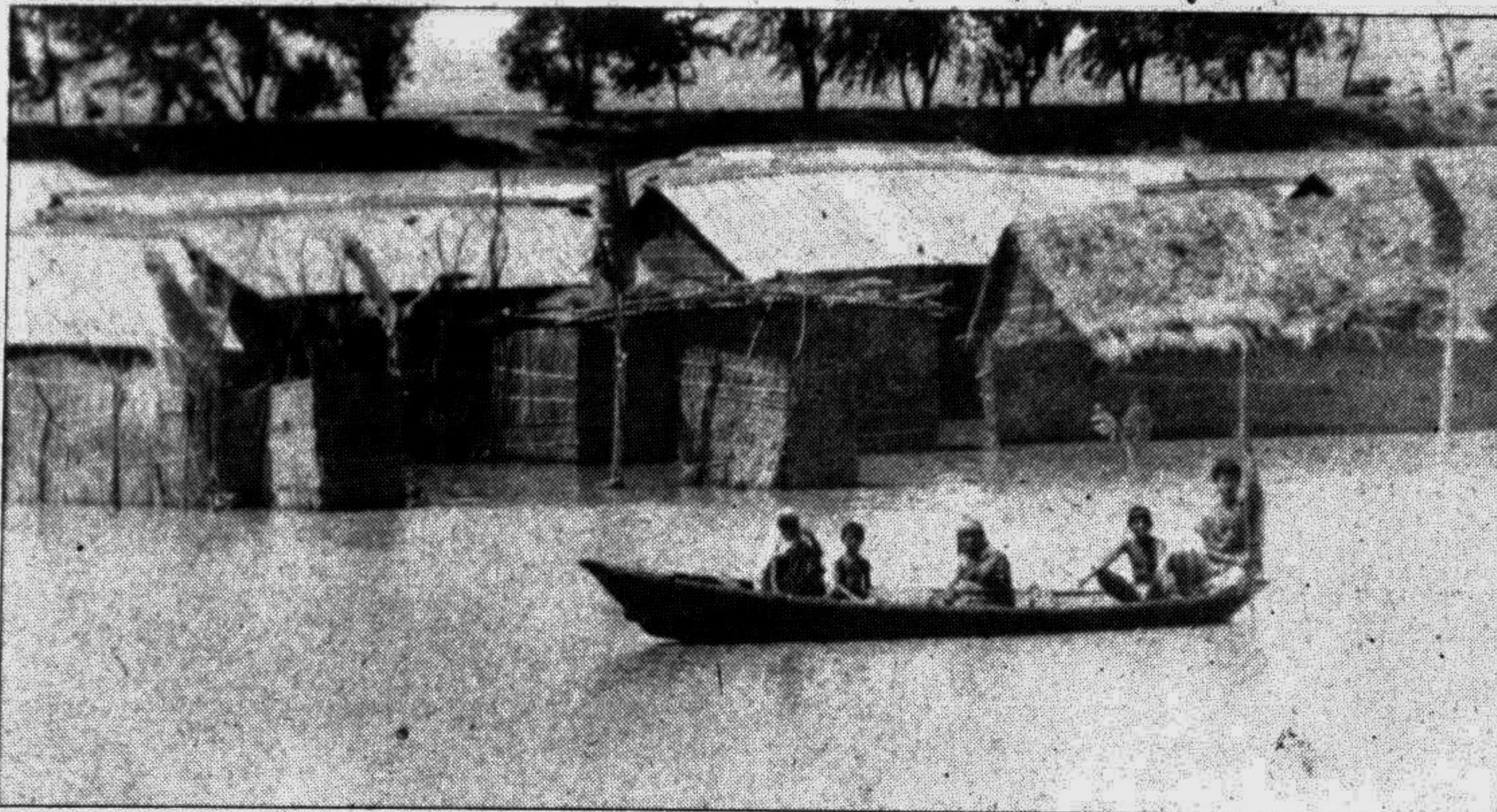
BARGUNA, July 9: Quilt, popularly known as Kantha, made of used clothes by the rural womenfolk, is disappearing from almost all the five thanas of the district, reports UNB.

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 patronisation.



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

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 Sarishabari pourashavas were also submerged.

According to district administration sources, about

From Our Correspondent

50,000 people of the district have been affected, over 8,000 houses have been totally damaged and 7,000 houses were partially damaged by the flood.

A total of 2,000 km kitcha 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

others thanas headquarters were suspended due to inundations.

The railway ferry service between Bahadurabad ghat to Teestamukh ghat remained disrupted due to erosion at the Bahadurabad ghat jetty sides.

The road communication between Jamalpur-Shreepur is totally suspended due to inundation as flood water.

Akhter Hossain Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur, visited same affected areas and distributed relief goods among the flood victims.

About 5,000 people have taken shelter in the building of different institutions. They are suffering from want of food, water, medicine and other facilities. But no camp for the shelter less was not open till Monday.

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

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 tosha variety and the rest under local variety.

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.

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 Kushiya — 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 receding 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 Bhaigayakul also receded by 5 cm and was flowing 12 cm above the danger mark.

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

The Kushiya at Amalshid further rose by 18 cm and was flowing 43 cm above danger level. The river rose by 11 cm at Sheola 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			
Dharla	Kurigram	26.50	25.73
Teesta	Dalia	52.25	51.55
Teesta	Kaunia	30.00	28.71
Brahmaputra	Noonkhawa	27.89	25.94
Brahmaputra	Chulmari	24.00	23.38
Brahmaputra	Bahadurabad	19.50	19.50
Brahmaputra	Sirajganj	13.75	13.34
Brahmaputra	Aricha	9.14	8.73
Old Brahmaputra	Jamulpur	17.00	16.11
Old Brahmaputra	Mymensingh	12.15	11.11
Buriganga	Dhaka	6.00	4.60
Laksha	Narayanganj	5.50	4.73
Turag	Mirpur	5.94	4.89
Turag	Tongi	6.08	4.80
Kaliganga	Taraghat	8.36	7.30
Ganges Basin			
Karatoa	Panchagarh	70.75	68.28
Punarbhaba	Dinajpur	33.50	30.24
Mahananda	C'nawabganj	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	Bhaigayakul	6.00	6.12
Gorai	Gorai Rly Brdg	12.75	9.49
Kumar	Faridpur	7.50	4.16
Meghna Basin			
Surma	Kanaighat	13.20	13.58
Surma	Sylhet	11.25	10.81
Surma	Sunamganj	8.25	8.25
Kushiya	Amalshid	15.85	16.28
Kushiya	Sheola	13.50	13.69
Manu	Manu Rly Brdg	17.07	14.71
Manu	Moulvibazar	11.75	9.60
Khawla	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	
South Eastern Hill Basin			
Muhuri	Parshuram	13.00	19.74
Haldia	Narayanganj	14.63	13.00
Haldia	Panchpukuria	9.50	5.27
Sangu	Bandarban	15.25	6.78
Sangu	Dohazari	7.00	
Matamuhuri	Lama	12.25	6.30
Matamuhuri	Chiringa	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 'aman' (transplanted) aman in 7,03,788 hectares of land in 10 South-Western districts under the project of 'Nibir Sharakalin Fasal Utpadon' (Intense crops production in autumn season). These 10 districts are Magura, Jhenidah, Narail, Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur. Five lakh hectares of land will be brought under 'Ufsh' which is high yielding variety (HYV) and the rest of two lakh hectares of land will be brought under local variety.

AED sources said, 36,216 hectares of land would be brought under aman cultivation in Magura district, 83,510 hectares of land in Jhenidah, 1,18,74 hectares in Jessore district, 16,522 hectares of land in Narail district, 1,17,000 hectares of land in Khulna districts, 1,10,100 hectares of land in Bagerhat, 1,23,000 hectares in Satkhira district, 49,434 hectares of land in Kushtia district, 32,752 in Chuadanga district, and 17,788 hectares of land in Meherpur district.

According to the agriculture calendar, the season of cultivating aman has begun from June 15. Now the farmers are busy to grow saplings of aman paddy in 'Beejatala' (seed bed). They will start transplant saplings of aman from July 15, sources added.

AED sources also said the production target of aman paddy in 10 districts has been fixed at about 15,44,310 metric tons. AED, different banks and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) along with other concerned authorities have taken all necessary measures to achieve the production target.

Meanwhile, officials of Sonali Bank (SB), said they have taken a programme to disburse Taka 6.45 crore as loan in the 10 south western districts.

Tree fair in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, July 9: A week-long tree fair will be held at the Rajshahi Collegiate School ground at the end of this month to create awareness among the people for planting more trees, reports UNB.

A preparatory meeting of fair, organised by the district administration, was held here on Monday with Deputy Commissioner Kazi Farid Ahmed in the chair.

The week-long programme will include discussion meeting, orientation on tree planting, installation and demonstration of setting up of agricultural, industrial forestry, exhibition of documentary films and holding of cultural functions.

Local NGOs nursery owners and private forest owners attended the meeting, said an official handout.

2 get life sentence for kidnapping girl

KHULNA, July 9: Two people were awarded life imprisonment on Saturday for kidnapping a minor girl, reports UNB.

The convicts are Almir Hossain and Abul Hossain. The court also acquitted two others — Jahandir Hossain and Nurul Islam.

The prosecution, in brief, was that the accused kidnapped the minor daughter of Mohammad Nikar Ali, M.L.S.S of Fisheries Farm at Gallamari in Batiyaghata thana on October 3, 1995.

After investigation police submitted charge-sheet against four people.

After examining the witnesses and records, District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Arayem Uddin awarded the punishment under Women and Child repression Act.

Tree plantation programme

KHULNA, July 9: Agricultural department has undertaken a programme to plant two crore saplings in nine thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Of the saplings, 60 per cent will be timber plants while 40 per cent fruit bearing trees, official sources said.

Last year, the authorities had planted about six lakh different species of saplings which was much higher than the target.

WDB takes up steps to repair breaches in embankment

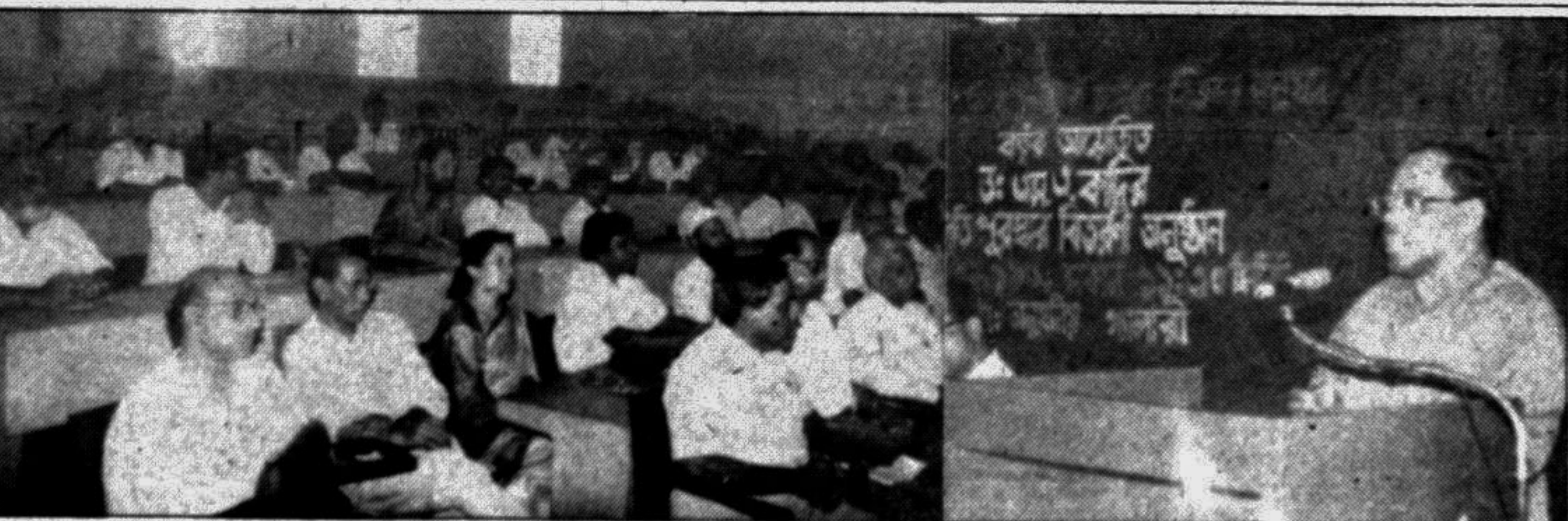
Recent floods has caused erosion at three points on the Brahmaputra Right Flood Embankment in Sariakandi thana in Bogra district, says a press release of WDB yesterday.

Water Development Board has taken up various necessary measures to repair the breaches at Hasnapara, Kutubpur-Chandanbaisha and Kamalpur.

To protect the affected points from flood, Water Development Board was completed the construction of required embankment and cross-bar at Hasnapara point before June 30.

Flood control measures have been completed at Kutubpur-Chandanbaisha point by constructing 600-metre retired embankment by June 30 on an emergency basis.

The embankment at Kamalpur point has been eroded partially by flood. Water board also took up construction of 1100-metre retired embankment from July 7 to protect the area from the flood. The work is expected to be completed in 3 to 4 days time.



Agri-Varsity (Mymensingh): Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk speaking as chief guest at the Dr SA Qadir memorial prize distribution ceremony at the gallery.

— BAU photo

Biological management for higher hilsa yield

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, July 9: The country can have maximum yield of hilsa fish through the application of biological management of stock.

According to fishery experts there are three species of hilsa in the water system of Bangladesh. They are known as 'hilsa ketta', 'hilsa illisha' and 'hilsa fola'. We generally get 'hilsa illisha' as it enters in the fresh water from the Bay of Bengal while the other kinds of hilsa are confined in the coastal waters.

'Hilsa illisha' has a life cycle from infancy to maturity. It is a migrating fish from sea to river. It spends a large part of its life in fresh water for the purpose of feeding and spawning. The juveniles of hilsa upto 15 centimetre are locally called 'Jatka'. Jatka are widely distributed in the foreshore and riverine waters of the Padma, the Meghna and other deltaic.

So far two major nursery grounds have been identified. The largest one is in and around Chandpur areas of the river Meghna. The other one is in the Patuakhali district from kuakata to Dublarchar in the coastal area. 'Jatkas' graze in the above areas for five to six months after that they migrate to the sea water. During this grazing period they are caught by different types of fishermen such as 'jagat ber jal' and current net and 'pogjal', 'bhundjal'. In the above areas Jatka are caught more or less throughout the year. But the main season of catching Jatka begins from January to April. The average total estimated catch of Jatka is about 3,707 tons in a season. If only 20 per cent of the above Jatka could be protected in additional production of 15 million tons of Hilsa worth about Tk. 5000 million could be obtained per year.

Hilsa fish experts of Chandpur Fishery Institute, viewed that about 50 per cent Jatka are caught by 'jagat ber jal' and the rest are caught by current and other types of nets.

It was found that maximum harvest of Hilsa would be obtained from the river Meghna near Chandpur. But now-a-days hilsa can be harvested abundantly in the rivers Tetulia and

Pyra near Barisal. The Padma near Goalanda the Shiba near Khulna are also identified to produce hilsa.

It is ascertained that about 95 per cent hilsa could be harvested from the river Padma and Meghna and the rest 5 per cent from the sea. Now a days it has been found that about 60 per cent of hilsa can be harvested from Bay of Bengal and from its neighbouring coastal areas. Due to the construction of Parakka Barrage by India over the river Ganges, hilsa fish production has been affected both in Padma and Meghna.

The Parakka barrage exerts a profound negative impact on hilsa fishery by the diversion in the Ganges water. As a result the river Padma and Meghna are gradually running towards siltation. So the spawning ground of hilsa has been destroyed and the travelling routes and the grazing field of hilsa fish has been disrupted. The construction of embankments and sluice gates under different irrigation projects have also hampered the

hilsa production. Over fishing in the vast waterways is one of the main causes of reducing hilsa fish production.

Introduction of new method of fishing technology and other mechanisation of catching of hilsa has increased hilsa output manifold.

According to fish experts there are about 3317 mechanised boats, 18,000 country boats and about 20 lakh fishermen engaged in catching fish.

Hilsa is a migratory fish. So it is very difficult to locate its spawning ground. Hilsa lives in the sea and it leaves its egg in the river but due to heavy current the fertilized eggs are shifted from one place to another during the breeding seasons. The broad hilsa fish is produced almost round the year in the Meghna particularly in the areas from Saitnal to Chandpur and Haim char to Nilkamal. So these areas of the river Meghna may be considered as the spawning ground of hilsa in between March, April and May.

A lot of hilsa are caught in

the Meghna recently. Hatiya and Sandwip have been identified as new breeding centres of hilsa. Hilsa blocks migrated to these areas from the sea for spawning during the tide period. Many hilsa are also caught at the time of egg releasing condition. So, hilsa production is affected.

The induced spawning of hilsa has been successful at Chandpur Fishery Institute. This has been possible by collecting the broad male and female fish from the above mentioned areas of the Meghna. Hilsa fish can be produced in tanks. This fish is cultured in many tanks and ponds in Chandpur.

The government can earn nearly Tk two thousand crore yearly by exporting hilsa fish. If proper infrastructural facilities are provided to the fishermen. Fishermen urged the government to set up permanent police camps in the river Meghna and Padma to ensure security of hundreds of fishermen. The fishermen are harassed by alleged miscreants and toll collector.



CHANDPUR: Hilsa fish being unloaded from the boats.

— Star photo

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিপিংয়ে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites International sealed Tender No. KNM/PD(F)-26/96 for purchase of Wireless Transmitter Receiver Set which will be opened on 19-08-1996 at 3-00 PM. Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk. 25.00 (twenty-five) per set from (1) KNM Ltd., (2) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka & (3) BCIC, 6 Agrabad, Chittagong. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC 680-6/7/96
DFF-15159-7/7

G-832

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প্রশাসন বিভাগ (সংগ্রহ শাখা), বোর্ডবাড়ার, গাজীপুর
BOU/Admn.-14(10)/93/1120 Date: 04-07-1996

Advertisement for Appointment of Clearing & Forwarding (C&F) Agents

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the Vice Chancellor/Project Director, Bangladesh Open University Project, from the bonafide C&F Agent for clearing of imported consignments from Zia International Airport and Chittagong Sea Port for the year 1996-97 & 1997-98. Tender schedule alongwith terms and conditions can be obtained from office the (i) Director (Accounts & Finance), Bangladesh Open University, Board Bazar, Gazipur and (ii) Director (Planning & Development), BOU, House # 16, Road # 2, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka up to 2-00 P.M. of 18-08-96 on submission of written application in letter head pad and payment of Tk. 200.00 (two hundred) in cash (Non-refundable).

Tenders will be received in the tender box kept in the office of the Registrar, (i) BOU, House No. 16, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka and (ii) BOU Campus, Gazipur up to 12-30 P.M. in presence of the Bidders (if any one remains present).

Successful bidder(s) will be required to deposit a sum of Tk. 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand) as security deposit. BOU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason.

Vice Chancellor/Project Director
Bangladesh Open University

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