

Tk 77cr IDA funded project to check river erosion in N-dist

From M A Ali Himu

NATORE, July 20: A long term extensive project, 'river-banks protection plan' has been taken to protect northern region of the country from constant erosion by river Brahmaputra and Jamuna and to make the flood control arrangements more effective.

Preliminary expenditure of the project has been fixed at Taka five hundred and 77 crore.

Of the total amount of expenditure, about 97 per cent will be provided from IDA loan. Bangladesh government will provide the rest amount.

The primary works of the project have already started at the three worst affected points of Bogra and Sirajganj.

According to officials, the implementation of the project will save millions of people from flood and erosion. Over two crore people will be facilitated indirectly with the project rehabilitation plan.

The sources said, the landlords and their families whose land are acquired for the project are being socio-economically rehabilitated.

Such arrangement is first in the country, the sources added. The authority has launched a rehabilitation programme for this reason. The sufferers identified through 15 categories are being facilitated under the programme.

As a result, landlords are leaving their land for the interest of the project peacefully.

In the meantime, about 94 hectares of land has been acquired for the project.

Young boy murdered in broad daylight

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 20: A young boy was chopped to death in broad daylight at Shaikhpara near Rajshahi Passport office in the city last Wednesday.

The dead was identified as Mijanur Rahman Shohan, 27, of Shaikhpara. He was a first year student of Rajshahi Law College.

The killing was a sequel to longlasting conflicts between the deceased and one Martin of the same locality either on a love-affairs or division of money earned as commission from the passport office, it seems.

According to the Boalia thana police sources, Mijanur Rahman and Martin were locked in a quarrel at about 11 am under a tree beside the passport office. At one stage Martin brought a sharp Hasua (an iron-made weapon) and chased Mijanur Rahman who tried to flee. Unfortunately he stumbled while running in the lane and fell on the ground.

Martin attacked him there and hit him in the waist, thigh and arms with the weapon and fled away.

Mijanur Rahman was at once taken to the nearby Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at about 12 O'clock.

A case was registered with the Boalia thana. Police could not arrest Martin till writing of the story.

Police sources said that Martin and Mijanur Rahman had been friends and residents of the same locality.

Both of them were involved in collecting commissions from the customers of the Passport office and a quarrel had developed between them some days ago on division of the commission-money.

Another information says that Mijanur Rahman had fell in love with Martin's sister, which Martin did not like. This made them enemies.

Jamuna erosion causes havoc in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 20: Severe erosion on the bank of the river Jamuna within Bera thana continuing for several months, already grabbed over one thousand acres of cultivable land.

More than 2,000 houses including dwelling houses, five markets, at least seven educational institutions including one High School of Nakalia have been devoured by Jamuna while miles of katchha roads,

the purpose with the thana council and hence he could do nothing. The matter lay with the Water Development Board. He said repeated requests were made with the local office of the Water Development Board and the Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, but to no effect whatsoever.

When contacted, about the steps taken by the Water Development Board, the Executive

the embankment area, protected so long from inundation by flood, would go deep under water ventering immeasurable losses. Hence, felt, immediate steps were required to be taken at least for saving the area from facing more losses and damages.

When contacted over telephone, Md Ishaque Ali, Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, told The Daily Star that the erosion in the area caused a severe disaster to the area.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed his deep concern over the situation and said that after visiting the area on several occasions, he, both in writing and over telephone, drew the attention of the Water Development Board authorities both in Pabna and in Dhaka but nothing tangible transpired.

When asked about the assessment of losses, the thana Nirbahi Officer, Bera, said earlier that 15 villages within Bera Pourashabha and in five unions under Bera thana, namely, Haturia, Nakalia union, Natun Bharenga, Puran Bharenga, Rupper and Dhalarchar unions under Bera thana were completely eroded so far. New areas under the said areas were also being devoured everyday.

Four villages under Haturia Nakalia union, three villages under Natun Bharenga union, three villages under Puran Bharenga union, two villages under Rupper union and two villages under Dhalarchar union so far were eroded. The area under erosion spread up to five kilometres so far.

The Thana Nirbahi Officer, Bera, told this correspondent that about 1500 huts were completely grabbed by river Jamuna rendering about 3,000 men, women and children completely homeless.

While visiting the area, this

ruddin, Nafiz Uddin, Yazuddin, Abhil Sardar, Haseen Ali (1) and Hasen Ali (2) and many others of village Madhya Pechakhola — all of whom victims of Jamuna erosion and are now sheltered on the Flood Control Embankment.

This correspondent while visiting village Pechakhola, a badly affected area by erosion met Md. Abul, Abdus Sattar and Md Nazrul, many of his

the embankment. A K M Shamsul Islam, Project Director, Water Development Board, stationed at Pabna, when contacted told this correspondent that the WDB was meant for construction and maintenance of Flood Control Embankment. They, therefore, had no fund for checking or resisting erosion. But, he, however, said the board would do whatever was necessary for



PABNA: The helpless village women from a erosion-devoured village under Bera thana, took shelter upon flood control embankment, but again faced threat of the same disaster as erosion already approached near their temporary shelter. — Star photo

mosques, temples, several hundreds of trees were damaged.

Erosion has been continuing with all its fury and has already rendered at least 5,000 men, women and children, mostly dependent on farming catching of fish, and small business.

This correspondent visited the affected areas, about 45 miles from Pabna town on Sunday and witnessed the ravages caused by the erosion. This correspondent found the area, to the east of the flood control embankment, completely under water and the river Jamuna, after devouring the areas, has turned into a vast sea with no house, nor any structure in sight although there were a number of villages, human habitations, huts, bazaars and many other places of human importance.

The flood control embankment, popularly known as 'Mujib Bundh' constructed by the then WAPDA and now maintained by the Water Development Board, was virtually partially damaged.

Talking to The Daily Star, the Thana Nirbahi Officer, Bera said that in terms of money, several crores of taka have been lost. The vast areas ranging from Pechakhola to Nakalia, outside the embankment area on the bank of the river Jamuna turned already into a deserted area with no habitation at all.

When asked what steps were taken to prevent the losses, the TNO stated there was no provision of fund for

Engineer in his office at Bera on the same day told The Daily Star that he, on his turn, brought the matter to the higher authorities of the Board but no fund was allocated for protection of the embankment. Whatever meagre fund was available, he went on to say, it was spent for safeguarding the embankment and for this purpose, bamboo fencing has been erected at several places.

The Executive Engineer admitted that in spite of the above step taken by them, there was a grave threat to



PABNA: The wreckage of Pechakhola Bazar, eroded by Jamuna, where people are hurriedly removing their shops to safer place. — Star photo

wards the existence of the Mujib Bundh and, if it developed breach, vast areas within

correspondent met Noor Mohammad, Sirajuddin, Sohrabuddin, Zahurul Haque, Khabi-



PABNA: The devoured and deserted scene of Nakalia Bazar in Bera thana caused by severe Jamuna erosion. — Star photo

fellow colleagues. Who were taking temporary shelters on the embankment.

The traders of Nakalia

Bazar of which 95 per cent of them are victims of river

Jamuna erosion said that measures to protect the market

could have been taken.

Some of the traders —

Baharat Chandra Kundu, Mad-

hab Chandra Kundu, Mizanur

Rahman, Narayan Chandra,

Kalu Miah, Babul, Abu Bakkar

Kokha, Baset, Hamid Molla,

Shafiuddin Pramanik told The

Daily Star that erosion was so

severe that they had only time

to remove tin-sheds of their

shops and godowns but, in

many cases, goods worth lakhs

cently visited the erosion spot

and it was expected that an

appropriate solution would be

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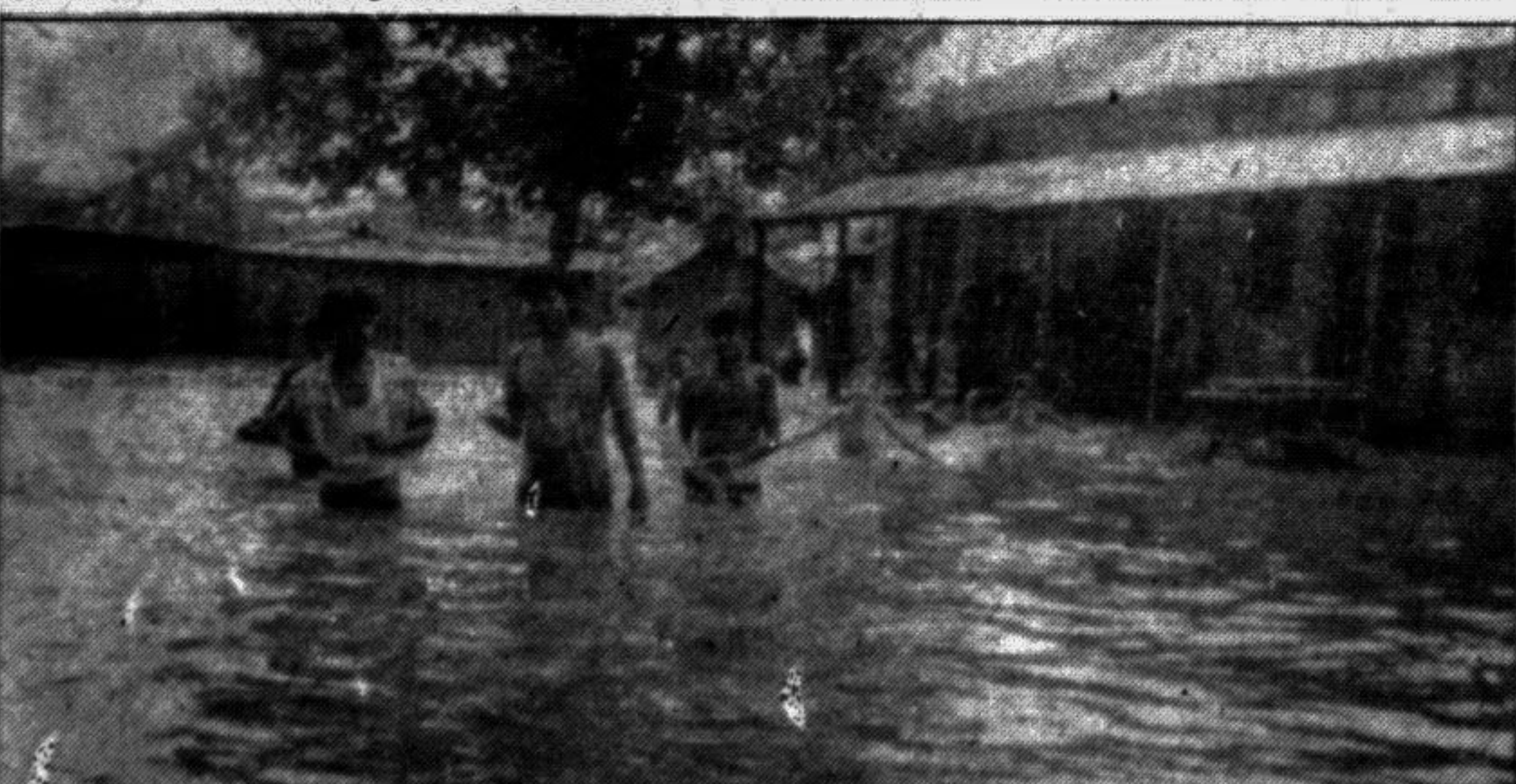
Heavy downpour worsens flood in Gaibandha

From KM Rezaul Huq

GAIBANDHA, July 20: Flood situation has taken alarming turn in Gaibandha district for the second time during this

were submerged by flood water. As such road link remain totally disrupted with Shahata, Fulchhari and Sunderganj

meanwhile made a preliminary estimate on flood devastation. In the district. According to district relief office over



GAIBANDHA: Scene of Gaibandha Poura area at Uttar Para inundated by flood water. — Star photo

current rainy season since. More areas were submerged in last 24 hours.

Consecutive heavy downpour as well as onrush of water from upper catchments along Teesta and Brahmaputra basin

thanas. The main roads, station road and highway link road of Gaibandha went under knee-deep water yesterday.

Flood claimed four lives in the district already. All of them are children. One Parvez (4)

1,97,500 people have directly been affected by flood water. Of them badly affected are 29,632 families. Total 7,400 dwelling houses were damaged completely and 13,500 affected partially. 324 km. roads and



GAIBANDHA: Portion of Kalibaripar under Gaibandha Pourashaba remain under waist deep water. — Star photo

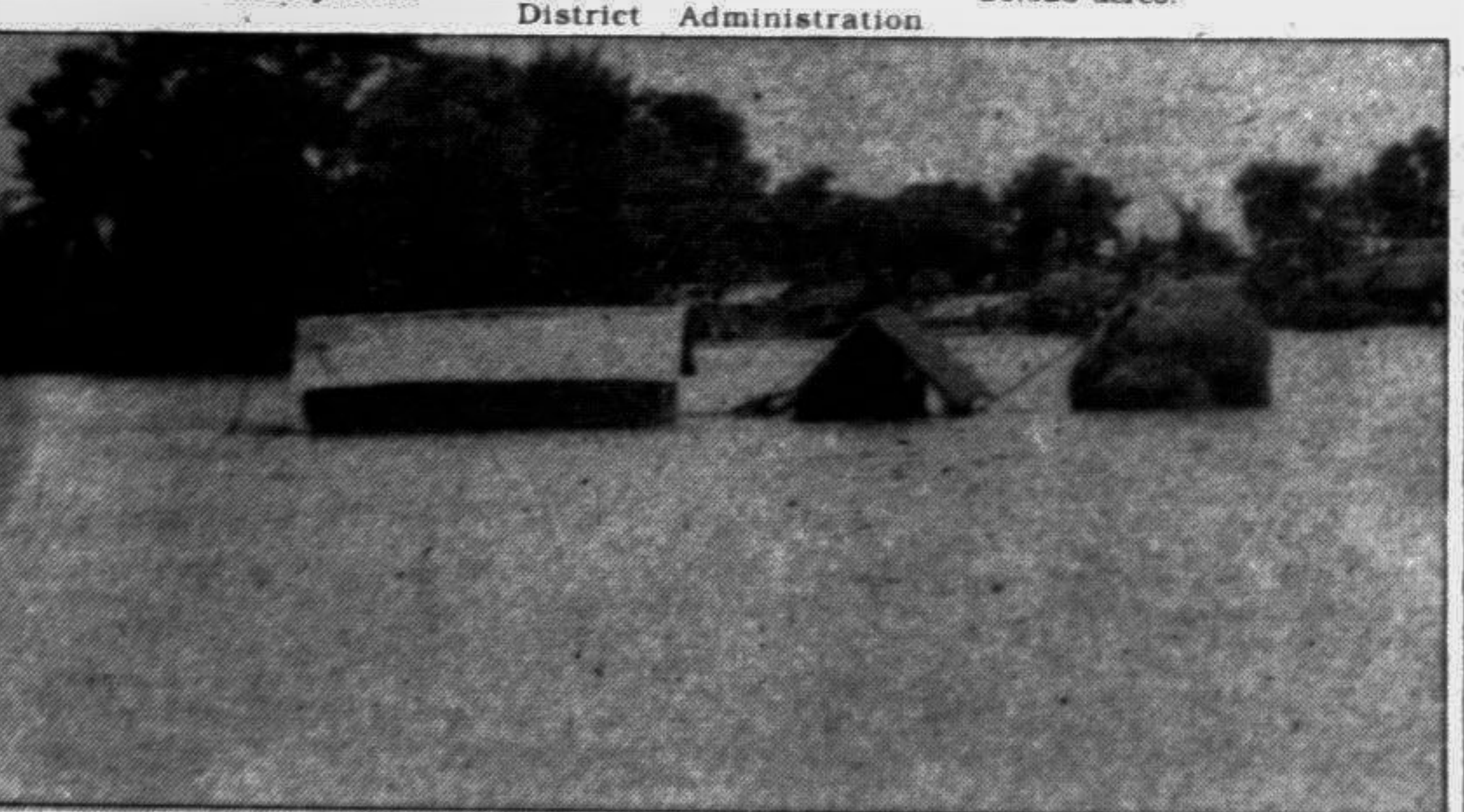
flooded vast tract of 59 unions under seven of the district in last 48 hours.

Major portion of Gaibandha pourashaba experienced more inundation. In many places there are waist to chest deep water. Total eleven roads together with lanes and by-lanes

and an infant of age one, Moyez Moulavi of village Poonair under Gobindaganj thana and another Ajisur 5 of village Bahatibaur under sadar thana drowned in flood water. Besides, a five year old girl Shakina under Sadar thana died from snake bite.

District Administration

embankments were destroyed while 19 bridges and culverts collapsed at different points. Flood water shattered 37 educational institutions including primary school and madrasa in remote areas. Flood water damaged standing crops on 26,525 acres.



GAIBANDHA: A village, Baguria went under flood water situated on the bank of river Brahmaputra. — Star photo

200 grams of ganja recovered

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 20: Two hundred grams of ganja worth Taka 5,000 was recovered from two places of Jhenidah poura area on July 15 last, it is reported.

According to district control department sources, acting on secret information the authorities raided a grocers shop at Kanchannagar and Hatkhola and recovered the item. But authorities could not arrest anybody so far.

Two separate cases were lodged with Jhenidah thana.

Contraband drug seized from bus roof top

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 20: Gaibandha thana police recovered 66 bottles of phenesyle from Gaibandha-Rajshahi coach Nannu Enterprise at Gaibandha bus terminal last week.

According to police during regular checking launched by combined DSB and Gaibandha Thana police in a joint drive recovered 66 bottles of contraband phenesyle from the roof top of Gaibandha bound coach. On challenge none claimed the ownership of the said item. Police, however, seized the item and a case was filed with thana but none was arrested in this connection.

Legal aid committee

A legal aid committee was formed in a meeting held at Gaibandha bar library on July 11. On the occasion, a discussion meeting was held that was presided over by Advocate Mozammel Haq. The meeting was addressed by Advocate Aynul Huq, Abdus Satter, Jahangir Alam Jimmah. The meeting decided to form a legal aid committee to render free services to poor people.

RU 1st yr hons class starts from July 22

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 20: The first year honours classes (session 1996-97) of Rajshahi University will begin from July 22 Monday. All the students concerned are requested to attend the classes, a RU press release said.

Comprehensive crop cultivation plan taken in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 12: A comprehensive summer crop cultivation programme has been undertaken in Kishoreganj district during the current season. The summer crops include jute, aus, broadcast aman and vegetable.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, a total of 47,300 hectares of land have been brought under the programme in the district this year. Of the total acreage, 16,010 hectares of land have been brought under jute, 29,173 hectares under aus, 146 hectares under broadcast aman and 1971 hectares under vegetable cultivation. The production target has been estimated at 1,53,500 bales of jute, 47,619 metric tons of aus rice, 146 metric tons of broadcast aman rice and 24,000 metric tons of vegetables.

A total of 713 demonstration plots of different summer crops were set up in different thanas of the district to provide practical training to the growers for cultivation of summer crops.

Exports of the Agriculture Department are directly supervising this programme to attain the optimum production.

RAKUB gives Tk 172 crore in Rajshahi Div last fiscal

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 20: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) disbursed Taka 172 crore loan among the farmers in 16 districts of Rajshahi Division during last 1995-96 fiscal, official sources here said.

The loans were distributed through 300 branches of the bank. The achievement of loan disbursement was about 69 per cent of the fixed target.

The bank had fixed a target to distribute Taka 250 crore loan last financial year.

According to the RAKUB sources, loans were sanctioned against the sectors for cultivation of boro, aman and aus, wheat, sugarcane, potato, etc. animal husbandry, poultry, dairy farms, buying of bullocks for ploughing, small trades, buying of agriculture machines, agriculture-based factories and different socio-economic sectors.

Out of the total, Taka 31.41 crore loans were distributed in Rajshahi, Natore, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts under Rajshahi Zone. Taka 35.70 crore in Bogra and Joypurhat districts under Bogra Zone, Taka 27.04 crore in Pabna and Sirajganj districts

Rats consume grains worth Tk 1.4 crore

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, July 20: Believe it or not foodgrains worth Taka over 1.40 crore goes into the stomach of rats during boro cultivation seasons in Jhenidah district, according to Bangladesh Plant Protection Department and Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute sources.

A joint survey of the two departments stated that the damage of foodgrains by rats occurs only during the cultivation period. Damage by rats however, in store or during transportation was not included in the statistics.

According to District Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Jhenidah, 48,190 hectares of land was brought under boro cultivation in six thanas of the district in 1995-96.

AED sources said 2,56,922 metric tons of paddy was collected by the farmers. Statistics stated that zero point eight (0.8) per cent of paddy is damaged by rats in the district. On the basis of the statistics, about 55,500 maunds of paddy is damaged or consumed by rats. Total population of Jhenidah district is about 14 lakh and the foodgrain of three days for the total population is damaged by the rats.

New executive body of RU Rotaract Club

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 20: The executive body election of Rajshahi University Rotaract Club (session 1996-97) concluded here recently with Rtr Shohel Ahmed Likhon and Rtr Tareq Chowdhury president and secretary respectively.

The newly elected office bearer of RU Rotaract Club are, Vice President Azharul Islam Masud and Fakhrul Islam Palash. Joint Secretary Moinul Haq Bipul and Gazi Salahuddin Mahbub Abu Treasurer. Sheema Ashrafi, Director (club) Ataur Rahman Khan Ripon, Director (Comm) Inun Nahar Shewly, Director (prof) Ahsanullah Shahid Director (Int'l) Minu Yeasmeen Minu, Editor Md Anwar Ul-Hussain Rana, SGT-AT-ARMS, ABM Salfur Rahman Babu and M A Man-nan.



JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY: JU Vice Chancellor Professor Amirul Islam Chowdhury welcomes the freshers at the Women's Hall-3 recently. — Star photo