

UP chairman abducted, 8 houses set ablaze

From CHT Correspondent

GUIMARA (Khagrachhari). Aug 3: One union parishad chairman was abducted and eight dwelling houses along with a school were set ablaze by the tribal insurgents during the last three days at two different places in the insurgency-battered Chittagong Hill Tracts region, official sources said.

At mid night Sunday, Nagera Tripura, the chairman of Guimara union parishad in Matiranga thana of the district was abducted by the tribal insurgents at gun-point from his house at Ballyachhari village in the same thana while he was asleep. Matiranga thana police quoted the family members of the victim as saying,

Earlier, in the same night, the tribal insurgents set fire on eight dwelling houses at Narayanpara village in Matiranga thana of the district. Prior to set fire on the houses, the insurgents tortured the panic villagers physically with the barrels of the guns, police quoted the victims to have said.

Narayanpara is a village where the displaced tribal people were rehabilitated under the Jhumia Rehabilitation Scheme in Upland Settlement Project of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board.

The high school at Bora Mohaprumchhora in Kutukchhari of Kaukhali thana in Rangamati hill district was burnt to ashes when the tribal insurgents set fire allegedly for the refusal of the villagers to pay them tolls. Kaukhali thana police said.

Tense has been prevailing in Matiranga thana of the district and Kaukhali thana in Rangamati hill district soon after the abduction of the UP chairman and arson by the tribal insurgents.

Bogra ASP files case against his son-in-law for allegedly murdering his daughter

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 3: Shahjahan Ali, Additional Super of Bogra Police filed a case against his son-in-law accusing him of murdering his daughter.

Rajpara thana sources said, ASP Shahjahan Ali alleged in his deposition that his son-in-law Abu Mohammad Dilwar Hasan Imam, ASI of Rajshahi Reserve Force of police, allegedly burnt his daughter Shahana Perveen, 21, on July 4 last, assisted by his family members.

She succumbed to her injuries on July 17 in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The couple, Delwar Hasan and Shahana Perveen lived at Mahisbathan under Rajpapur thana in the city.

One jailed for getting married second time

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 3: For performing second marriage without obtaining any permission from the first wife, Asfar Ali Sarkar was convicted under Muslim Family Laws Ordinance and was sentenced to suffer simple imprisonment for a term of one year and to pay a fine of Taka 10,000.

Alkama Siddiqui, Magistrate First Class, Pabna, awarded the above punishment to the aforementioned accused.

Complainant Hasina Begum, the first wife of the accused, filed the above case against her husband, Asfar Ali Sarkar of village Char Bhangoora Khanpara under Bhangoora thana of Pabna district alleging that she was married with the accused in accordance with the provisions of Mohammedan Law in 1979. When she became pregnant, she was sent to the house of her father for a safe care and delivery. But during her absence, her husband Asfar Ali Sarkar held second marriage with Shamsunnahar Begum, daughter of Abdul Majid Khan of the same village without informing or obtaining any permission from her.

Meanwhile, on May 1, 1990, Hasina gave birth to a female child.

When the judgment was delivered, Hasina Begum, the complainant died. The case continued for long ten years.

15 injured in two separate clashes

JHENIDAH, Aug 3: At least 25 people were injured in separate clashes in two thanas of the district last week, reports UNB.

Police said a clash between the activists of ruling Awami League and BNP at Pukuria village in Kaliganj thana left 15 people injured.

The injured were admitted to Jhenidah sadar and Jessore general hospitals.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when the activists of Awami League attacked a BNP worker, Amin Master, at the village.

In another incident, 10 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of people at Baniabalm village in sadar thana.

Tk 175 cr project to improve water supply system in nine dist towns

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Aug 3: Works on a 43 million dollar (equivalent to about 175 crore taka) project aimed at improving the existing water supply systems in 9 district towns has been started. The ambitious 5 year project styled — Second Water Supply and Sanitation Project is being financed by the ADB.

The district towns included in the project are, Bagerhat, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Jamalpur, Kishoria, Pabna, Rangpur, Tangail and Sylhet.

While talking to this correspondent, an official source informed that of the total amount, 23.8 million dollars will be spent for improving the water supply systems, 4.3 million dollars for improvement of environment and sanitation systems, while 3.6 million dollars will be for project implementation and management and contingency and other miscellaneous spending would be 11.2 million dollars.

The official further informed that, total amount includes, 27.4 million dollars in the foreign exchange and the rest 15.6 million dollars in the local currency.

The project works include,

construction of new production wells and repair of the old wells, construction of new pump houses and repair of the old ones, construction of water reservoir and renovation of the old ones and setting up of new water treatment plants. Besides, new water supply connections will be given to the town dwellers and the existing lines will be renovated. Hand-driven tubewells will also be sunk and low-cost sanitary latrines will be supplied. A good number of equipment and machineries will also be purchased, the source added.

While talking to this correspondent, Chairman of Sylhet Pourashava, Badar Uddin Kamran informed that, of the total amount, Taka 25 crore has been allocated for Sylhet Pourashava. He said, the main task for the pourashavas will be to upgrade its water supply service. It will involve improving the operational efficiency and rectifying the existing deficiencies, he said.

Kamran also said that, the pourashava has now been supplying only 18 lakh gallons of water per day with the age-old system of water supply.

Though the area of Sylhet pourashava has been expanded several times with rapid rise in the population over the past few years, but the authorities could not improve the water supply position, due to different reasons. At present there is a demand of at least one and half crore gallons of waters a day, he said, expressing the hope that on completion of the project, it will be possible to meet the demand.

While talking to this correspondent Executive Engineer, Sylhet pourashava Fazul Haque said, initially maintenance and rehabilitation works of the existing water supply system would be done. Under the programme, 7 production wells will be constructed at a cost of Taka 45 lakh while 3 old ones will be developed and repaired at a cost of Taka 5 lakh. Seven pump houses will be constructed at a cost of Taka 14 lakh and setting up of 7 pumps will cost a total of Taka 33.1 lakh. He said that, 4 new water reservoirs will be constructed with a targeted expenditure of Taka four crore while the only old one will be repaired spending Taka 4 lakh.

The Executive Engineer also informed that, construction of the new water treatment plant would cost a total of Taka 5 crore. Setting up of 61 kilometre new water supply lines would cost Taka 3 and a half crore while reticulation of 32 kilometres would cost Taka 46 lakh, and development and repair of the 28.7 kilometre line would cost Taka 32.5 crore. The source further informed that, a total of at least 4332 new water supply connections will be given at a cost of Taka 86.5 lakh while 3000 old connections will be repaired and developed.

The project also includes, sinking of 1300 new hand driven tubewells, the Executive Engineer said adding 3000 sets of sanitary latrines will also be supplied at a cost of Taka one crore 35 lakh.

The source however, informed that, all major and minor repair and renovation works will be completed during the last two years while the major construction works would be done later. The whole project would be completed within 5 years, the source added.

Rice mill boiler explodes: One killed

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 3: One person was killed and two others sustained burn injured when a rice mill boiler exploded at Jundaha under Palashbari thana on July 30.

The victims namely Habil 15, Ranju 30, Habibur 25 were staying nearby with the rice mill. All of a sudden the boiler exploded with a big bang that first hit Habil who died on the spot and other two received severe burn injuries. They were removed to health complex in critical condition.

Another news adds: Miscreants snatched away 19 bundles of C.I. sheets allotted for the destitute farmers of Jamalpur union under Sadullapur Thana on July 28.

Gaibandha district Relief Department allotted total 31 bundles of C.I. sheets in favour of 31 destitute persons of Jamalpur union.



RAJSHAHI: BDR personnel recently arrested two persons with a pistol from Godagari border area. They were handed over to the Godagari thana police. — Star photo

4 out of 5 tug boats out of order

Hundreds of railway goods remain stranded at two ghats

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 3: Railway marine department could not despatch goods wagons between Teestamuk ghat and Bahadurabad ghat due to acute shortage of Tug boats. Out of five Tug boats four have already gone out of order. Hundreds of wagons loaded with essential items remain parked on both the sides of Railway ferry ghats for a pretty long time.

According to the source of the marine department, a total of 210 wagons are transhipped in three consecutive trips daily during normal working period but for the last few days only 35 wagons were being despatched between two ghats every day with only a single Tug boat.

Teestamuk ghat Railway marine department possesses five Tug boats for its operation between Teestamuk and Bahadurabad ghats. Out of five boats three have completely gone out of order. Another boat could not carry enough load due to mechanical fault, the source said. Now only a single Tug boat ferrying between two ghats is operating.

Railway authority earned major income from shipping goods wagons which needs a swift transhipment between Teestamuk and Bahadurabad ghats. According to report, two Tug boats namely M V Bairum Kha and M V Isha Kha lying abandoned since last few months due to major mechanical disorder. Marine department, however, tried to make the boats operational using local technique spending about one lakh taka but all in vain.

The said boats could not be repaired as yet. A few days back, a major mechanical fault was detected in Tug M V Tiumer which has been sent to Khulna Dockyard for major over-hauling. Another Tug boat

MV Mirjumalla declared recently unfit for carrying wagon boat due to partial disorder. Now, MV Bahadur Shah an age old Tug boat is in operation between two ghats that is carrying a negligible number of wagons.

Earlier, a few employees including master of M V Mirjumalla were put under suspension for gross negligence in duties. The said boat went out of order due to rough operating which is yet to be repaired.

With the disorder of four Tug boats out of five, Teestamuk ghat Railway marine department is facing acute problem in removing huge loaded and unloaded wagons stranded at both Teestamuk and Bahadurabad ghats.

18 poisonous snakes caught from one single hole

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 3: Though unbelievable a snake charmer managed to catch 18 poisonous snakes from a hole on July 27 last.

It was reported that Moitur Rahman of Munshipara under Satkhira pourashava informed Lutfar Rahman a snake charmer, of Baidyapur Colony under the same town after seeing a snake in hole. Lutfar Rahman then dug the hole and managed to catch 18 snakes one after another.

The length of each snakes is about 18 inches, eyewitnesses said.

Teen-aged girl takes poison, dies in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 3: A teen-aged girl committed suicide by taking poison on July 28.

According to police sources, the victim Shahida Khatun, 16, daughter of Peer Ali of village Naikail under Kaliganj thana committed suicide by taking poison. Family trouble was the cause of her suicide the sources said.

Research museum to open new gallery

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 3: The Barendra Research Museum will soon open a new gallery named, "City Gallery" in its own premises, official sources here said.

The aims and objective of establishing such a gallery is to

collect and display the historical backgrounds of Rajshahi city including its anthropological and archaeological specimens, political and social monuments, agricultural, industrial and commercial development, its literature, music, crafts etc.

Rajshahi City Corporation will bear all the cost for establishing the gallery and has already given an amount of about Taka three lakh.

A supervising committee including a representative

from Rajshahi City Corporation will look after the gallery, the sources disclosed.

Dr. Saifuddin Chowdhury, Director of Barendra Research Museum, told this correspondent in an interview that the museum will be a rich one of its kind in the subcontinent in its historical and archaeological perspectives, but it lacked in ingredients and specimen of the recent past.

"With a view to fill up this gap," he said, "We have already opened a gallery named 'Muslim Gallery' which has been able to attract the experts as well as the common people. The city gallery is being opened with same idea," he said.

Meanwhile, Mijanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation handed over a cheque of Tk. 2,92,774 lakh to Dr. Saifuddin Chowdhury for the first phase of establishment of the proposed city gallery in Barendra Museum in a simple function recently held at his office. He hoped in his brief speech on the occasion that the City Gallery would be able to attract people and help the experts to study, conduct research work and write history of Rajshahi region. The function was also attended by Abul Qasem, Chief Executive Officer of Rajshahi City Corporation.



RAJSHAHI: Rajshahi City Mayor, Mijanur Rahman Minu, handed over a cheque of about Tk 2.93 lakh to Dr Saifuddin Chowdhury, Director of Barendra Research Museum for opening a 'City Gallery' in the museum. — Star photo

White spot disease strikes, thousands of shrimp farmers in trouble

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 3: The target of shrimp production could not be achieved due to sudden attack of 'white spot disease' in shrimp farms under greater Khulna district during the current season.

It was learnt from the district Fishery Department that shrimps worth Taka several crores died of white spot disease in shrimp enclosures (ghers) under Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts.

According to sources the shrimp farmers of Satkhira,

Khulna and Bagerhat districts imported shrimp fry from India and Thailand due to scarcity of fry in the local market during the growing period, shrimp fry were attacked with viral disease called white spot. Due to the sudden attack with the disease, huge quantity of shrimps died in the shrimp enclosure.

The sudden attack of the shrimps and their death due to the disease have thrown the marginal and middle class shrimp farmers into great financial distress. They took loans from bank for shrimp cultivation but are not in the position to repay them.

The well-informed circle viewed that the government should come forward to help the affected shrimp farmers. It was apprehended that this fatal shrimp disease may spread to new areas.

Mentionable that a total of three lakh acres of land were brought under the shrimp cultivation in greater Khulna district during the season.

19 found guilty in robbery case in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 3: Nineteen persons were found guilty and sentenced them to suffer rigorous imprisonment for robbery recently.

Md Abul Mansur, Additional Session Judge, First Court, Kishoreganj while delivering the judgement in a dacoity case on July 31 found the rest 15 accused, not guilty and acquitted all of them of the charge.

Of the convicts, Layes, Siddique, Bacchu, Barju and Kalagazi were sentenced to suffer RI for 3 years while absconding Taher, Ranju, Dulal, Babul, Golap, Tajul, Madhu Mia, Shamsu, Chaikya, Motaleb, Mujibur, Akkas Mia, Dewainya and Shafulul Islam were sentenced to suffer RI for 3 years and to pay a fine of Taka 1000 or in default to suffer RI for two months more.

The prosecution story in brief is that, on July 2, 1988 at about 8 am, the dacoits, disguised as passengers attacked of a launch bound for Bhairab in the Kodahati river near Bhairab town. The dacoits stopped the launch after stabbing its 'serang' and looted all belongings of the passengers. At one stage, the dacoits stabbed a passenger, named Khursid to death. Later they fled on an engine-driver boat.

A case was registered with Bhairab police who after investigation submitted charge-sheet against 34 persons leading to the trial in the court of Additional Session Judge.



KUSHTIA: SM Kausar, President, Kushtia Zila Press Club is receiving a Fax machine from Anwar Yousuf, noted industrialist and MD, BLTC Kushtia who has donated the same for Kushtia Zila Press Club. — Star photo

Power supply irregular in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 3: Continuous power disruption in the thana level supply network of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has been causing immense sufferings to the consumers incurring heavy loss to the productive sectors.

It was learnt that power disruption in the thana level supply network have turned very irregular recently. Every day loadshedding is recorded from dusk to 10 pm at night. At daytime also, power supply remains suspended for hours together. The late night supply, consequently does not come to any use of the domestic consumers who are to pay minimum bills for 60 units every month. Such irregularity of power supply also causes untoward incidents. On July 31, Balkuchi office of PDB was ransacked by the angry consumers.

While contacted, PDB sources said that of the total requirement of 14 megawatts, only seven to eight megawatts of power are supplied from the national grid line for Sirajganj district. The PDB supplies more than three megawatt of power to the Pali Bidyut Samity (PBS). Recently, a part of Kamarkhanda thana was transferred to the PBS to reduce load of PDB without increasing supply from the grid line.

CHTNCPC Subinoy Chakma said in his address of welcome that the council was formed in CHT region in such a crucial time when co-ordination among tribals and non-tribals virtually felt extremely essential for paving the long-felt way on resolving the vexing insurgency problem.

CHTNCPC new executive body formed

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Aug 3: A 21-member executive committee of the Rangamati district unit of Chittagong Hill Tracts National Co-ordination and Peace Council (CHTNCPC) was formed here recently in a general meeting of the council with Shantimoy Dewan and Bijoy Ratan Dey as president and general secretary respectively for 1996-97.

The elites of the hilly town attended the meeting chaired by the Senior Vice President of CHTNCPC AKM Maqsood Ahmed.

Secretary General of CHTNCPC Subinoy Chakma said in his address of welcome that the council was formed in CHT region in such a crucial time when co-ordination among tribals and non-tribals virtually felt extremely essential for paving the long-felt way on resolving the vexing insurgency problem.

CHTNCPC founded in late 1993 has been working towards sorting out the long-standing CHT problem by negotiating the people through holding of seminars, symposiums, rallies and regular publication.

Drinking water crisis prevailing in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Aug 3:

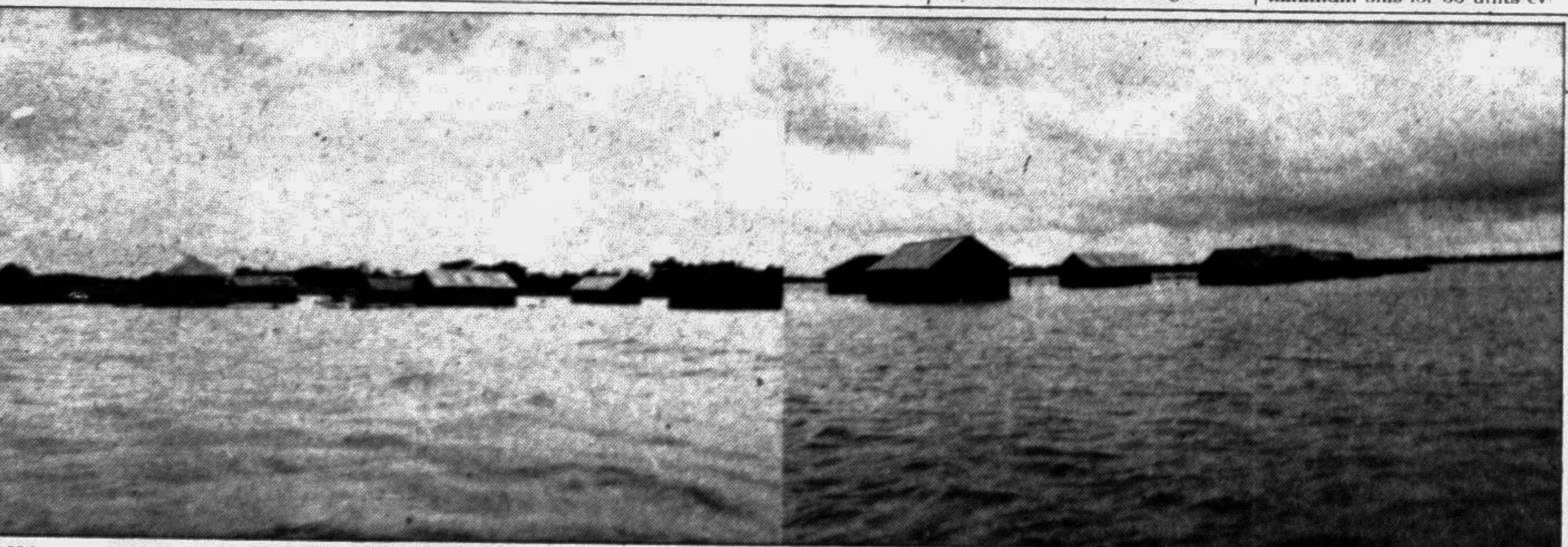
Drinking water scarcity has been prevailing in the hill district town for the last three weeks causing untold sufferings to dwellers, reports UNB.

Local Public Health Engineering Department sources said nine out of 11 ring-wells went out of order totally due to mechanical problems. Consequently two ring-wells cannot to supply the required water to the people.

They said two of the nine ring-wells went into heaps of sands of the river Sanghu aftermath of its construction last year and they even failed to trace out the wells.

About 40,000 people of the town and adjoining areas are forced to use contaminated river water and are suffering from various water born diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera.

Local people said the water supply project, which was initiated by the past government at a cost of about Tk 4 crore could not be completed during their tenure and no initiative has yet been taken to complete the same.



TANGAIL: Flood affected Kakua village. Many houses were washed away in the area recently by the on rush of water. — Star photos by Manirul Islam Manik