

Four persons abducted in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 4: Terrorists abducted one person and demanded Taka 80 thousand for his release money from the victim's family members of Mirpur thana recently.

Family sources said that a gang of armed terrorists kidnapped Anir Hossain Kheru, 38, from village Mollikpara of Mirpur thana on Wednesday night. No trace of the victim could be available till writing of this report, according to family sources.

The terrorists also kidnapped Md Shajahan Ali Malitha, 50, from village Nowdapa adjacent to Nimtala Bazar, 11 miles from Kushtia town on the same night. Family sources said that the armed terrorists took the victim forcefully from his house. No trace of Shajahan could be available till writing of this report. Latest reports say two more persons were abducted from same thana in last 3 days. Details were not available.

Distribution of about two lakh seedlings almost complete

From CHT Correspondent

BORACHHARI (Khagrachhari), Aug 4: The Borachhari Forest Nursery (BFN) has nearly completed distribution of about two lakh seedlings and stumps of different trees and fruit-bearing plants among the interested planters during the ongoing afforestation season, official said.

BFN, a permanent nursery of the Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division has been raising seedlings and stumps of different valuable trees like, teak, mahaguni, champaful, chapalish, Jarul, talsur, garjan, gamar, Shilkoral, eucalyptus, acacia menjam etc as well as fruit-bearing plants like, pomegranate, custard-apple, guava, jujube etc along with a sizeable number of medicinal plants. Forest Ranger Krishna Pada Saha, the charge officer of the nursery detailed.

Individual planters, government and private sectors as well as schools, madrasahs and colleges were among those who collected seedlings and stumps from BFN to plant during the ongoing tree plantation season, sources said.

In order to save the imbalanced environment and to cover as maximum areas as possible with tree plantation, the BFN as a part of its routine activities has also raised a few hundred beds of seedlings in the nursery for distribution in the coming plantation season, Krishna Pada added.

Bank cashier suspended for misappropriating Tk 70,000

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 4: A cashier of Sonali Bank, Jhenidah branch was suspended for his alleged involvement in defalcating bank money Taka 70 thousand, according to official sources.

According to Sonali Bank (SB) sources, Shamsur Rahman Mollah, cashier of the bank was transferred to elsewhere seven months back. But he did not hand over the charge to his new colleague. To investigate the matter authority deputed an officer. On second day, on investigation Taka 70 thousand was found short from the cash. The cashier allegedly tried to adjust the money from the remittances of Kaliganj branch but failed.

When contacted, Habibullah Bahar, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Sonali Bank, Jhenidah region acknowledged the fact and told that the cashier has already been put under suspension and disciplinary action was taken against him.

Tk 123 cr plan to develop forest resources in coastal dists

PATUAKHALI, Aug 4: Forest Department has taken up a five-year programme at a cost of Tk 123 crore in the coastal districts of the country to girdle with green fields, reports UNB.

The programme included development and establishment of new nurseries, tree planting by the side of highways, railways and connecting roads and experimental afforestation in sea beach.

The work on the programme to ensure ecological balance has already started in the coastal areas of Bagherhat, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Lakshipur, Feni, Chittagong, Noakhali and Cox's Bazar.

After proper implementation of the programme, the department is expecting that dreadfulness of cyclonic storm and flash flood would be reduced to a great extent and environment in the coastal region would be improved much.

Serious drinking water crisis prevails in Bandarban

From CHT Correspondent

BANDARBAN, Aug 4: Drinking water scarcity has taken an alarming turn in the district causing serious problem to the dwellers, especially in this hilly town due to allegedly mismanagement of the local Directorate of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

Majority people of this hilly district town out of a population of about 50 thousand have been using contaminated water from the canals, fountains, fumes and chhoras as the local DPHE could not meet even 25 per cent of their requirement even after the completion of the long awaited and severely demanded modern water treatment plant at a cost of taka four crore. Virtually, there has been an impasse in supplying drinking water to the tax-payers of this malaria-diarrhoea-prone neglected district town ignoring their basic human rights, local leaders alleged.

Thousands of people of this district have long been suffering from diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases after drinking contaminated and co-

liform bacteria infested water to an alarming rate. At least 230 people of this district, especially from the far flung and inaccessible areas have died of diarrhoea and other intestinal disorders from January this year till date on drinking the contaminated water, local leaders, social workers and relation of the victims alleged.

Diarrhoea may break out in an epidemic form at any time, if the present state of supply of drinking water let go unchanged, said physicians and health workers working at district headquarters and other places of the district.

No supply of drinking water takes place for months in Bandarban municipality, but the DPHE bills even for water supply-suspended period and realise the monthly bill threatening to disconnect supply lines, municipality dwellers alleged.

Seven water lifting pumps, out of eleven, have gone out of order since start of their operation in 1985. Due to non-availability of spare parts and constraints of necessary fund, the repair work of these seven

water lifting pumps could not be possible, an engineer from DPHE said.

The newly constructed water treatment plant was not brought into commission due to non-installation of electric connection accompanied by the dilly-dallying attitude of DPHE officials, sufferers alleged.

Meanwhile, an amount of Taka 1.27 lakh has allegedly been paid to Messers Salma Enterprise irregularly in the month of June last, reportedly without any valid quotation to perform the job. But, till date nothing has yet been done, concerned sources alleged.

When contacted recently an official from DPHE requesting not to be named told this correspondent that the contractor was paid 4-5 times higher than the schedule rate of the job.

Sufferers sought the necessary step of the concerned authority to arrange early to bring the water treatment plant into commission to mitigate their sufferances.



BORACHHARI: Partial view of Borachhari Forest Nursery. These seedlings are being distributed in the ongoing plantation season. — Star photo

Electricity supply crisis hits common people in Sylhet Div

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 4: Frequent loadshedding of electricity has made the life of the people of Sylhet Division miserable during the last few weeks. Severe rise in the temperature in the northern region of the country has also attributed much to the situation. The country's maximum temperature was recorded in this region during the last few days.

The frequent electricity failure has badly hit the common town dwellers. Especially, the students including the HSC examinees are the worst sufferers. Besides, small and big industries are also suffering much due to the prevailing power supply crisis through out the four districts in the division.

It is observed that, when the power goes out without any prior notice, it takes hours to get together to resume causing much inconvenience for the subscribers. Sometimes it is alleged that, remote areas including bazars and important commercial centres remain

without electricity for days together. People especially the businessmen have to incur losses for it. Besides, common consumers do not get any clear information about the power disruption from the complaint centres of the offices of PDB, it is alleged.

The people in general throughout the division were found very much annoyed due to the prevailing irregularity in the power supply as the total generation of power in the region is much more than the actual demand. It may be stated here that, a total of 160 Megawatt power is being produced in the three power generation units of Power Development Board (PDB) in Sylhet region.

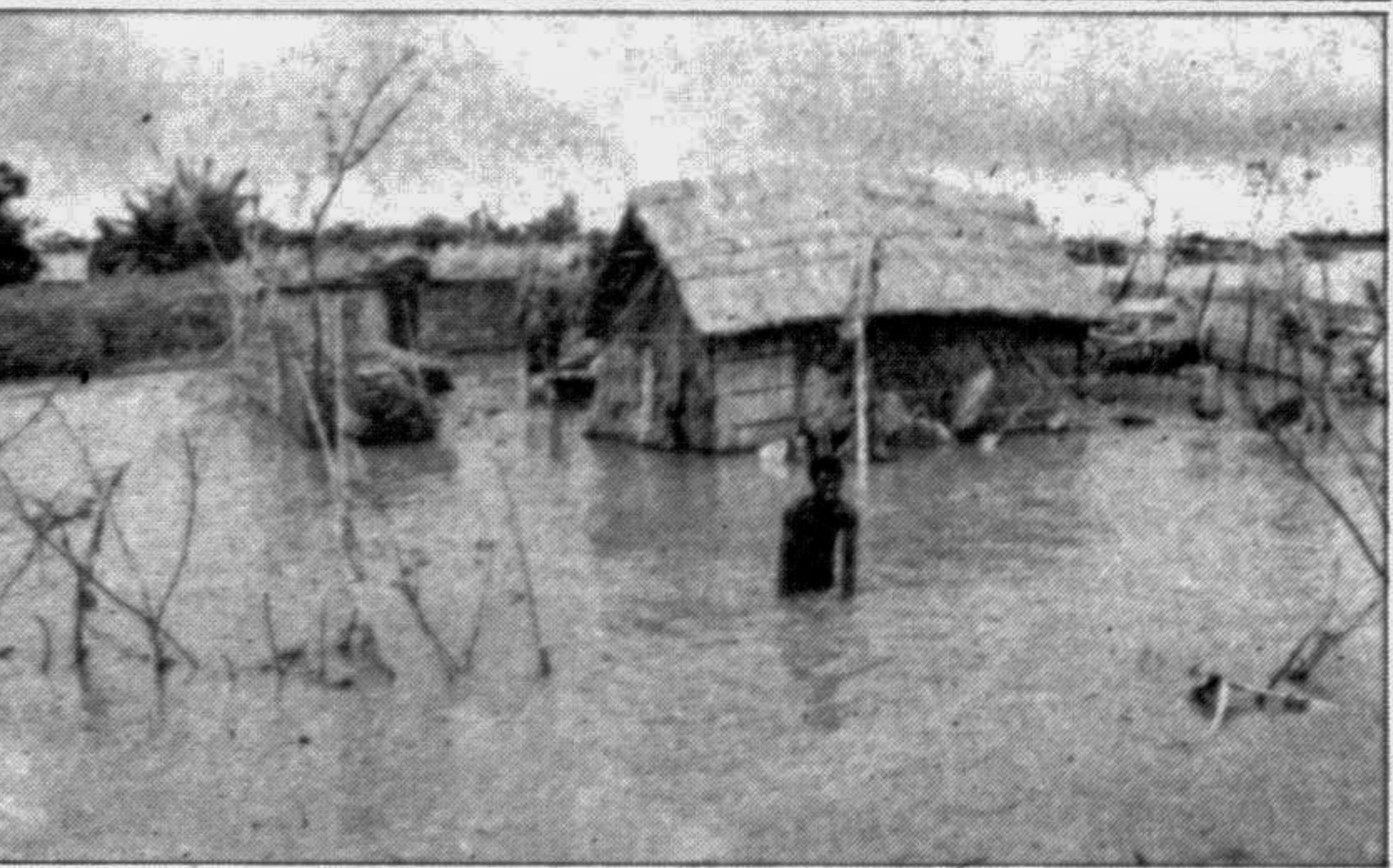
It includes, 50 Megawatt from the Shahjibazar power station, 90 Megawatt from the Fenchuganj Combined Cycle Power Plant and 20 Megawatt from the Kumarganj Power station per day. The total demand for power in 4 districts of Sylhet Division stands at 80

to 90 Megawatt, during the peak hour, informed an official source.

According to a reliable source, about 25 to 30 Megawatt electricity is being shaded everyday in the Sylhet Division for the last few weeks.

However, an official when contacted, said that they had nothing to do here to reduce the loadshedding as load distribution is controlled centrally to meet the nationwide crisis through the national grid.

Meanwhile, the different local organisations and political parties have been holding meetings and processions to protest the frequent loadshedding of electricity in greater Sylhet region for the last few weeks. They have called upon the authorities for taking effective measures to alleviating the suffering of the people in general, especially the students, immediately. Otherwise, larger movement would be launched, they said.



TANGAIL: Shelterless people of Kakua village — Star photo

'B' blood group dominates among Rajshahi citizens

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Aug 4: Blood group B is dominating among the permanent residents of Rajshahi city. This was revealed in a survey conducted among one thousand five hundred permanent residents of Rajshahi city recently.

Md Giasuddin and Golam Rasheed Sardar, both M. Sc. students Zoology Department of Rajshahi University in a project titled 'Study of blood group of man at Rajshahi city' under supervision of Assistant

Professor, Ananda Kumar Shaha conducted this survey in collaboration with Rajshahi Blood Bank and Shandhani, Rajshahi Branch.

The survey report reveals that some 36.59 per cent permanent residents belong to B blood group, blood group O followed with 31.77 per cent residents while 'A' blood group holders were placed third with 25.33 per cent and the rest 6.29 per cent belong to 'AB' blood group.

Among the 'B' blood group holders 'B+ve' are dominating among the permanent citizen of Rajshahi with 98.08 per cent people while 1.91 per cent citizen belong to B-ve.

Giving the breakup of blood grouping the project paper informs that some 37.21 per cent permanent male residents of the city belong to B+ve blood and 28.70 per cent female citizen belong to B+ve blood group.

Two BDR men suspended for allegedly accepting bribe

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 4: Two BDR jawans attacked with the BDR checkpoint at Kashinathpur over the North Bengal Highway, have been suspended by the authorities for allegedly taking bribe. Both the BDR jawans have been accused in an FIR and specific anti-corruption case has been lodged against them.

It is learnt that on July 13, the said BDR jawans allegedly took bribe from the driver of a truck carrying Indian holders. The Thana Nirbahi Officer, Bera, who was incidentally present there, searched the pockets of BDR jawans and recovered Tk 400. The TNO asked the Officer-in-Charge, Bera thana to take immediate action against the BDR men.

A case was lodged against Ahsan Ali, BDR Habildar and Monir, BDR jawan under Anti-corruption laws.

Investigations have been proceeding against both of them.

9-member rescue committee formed

From CHT Correspondent

PANCHHARI (Khagrachhari), Aug 4: A 9-member rescue committee was formed here recently with the local elites and leaders from both the tribal and non-tribal communities to arrange early release of nine abducted of people Panchhari thana in the district, committee sources said.

Mohammad Shafi, a member of the Liaison Committee was unanimously elected convener of the newly formed rescue committee.

The Convener of the rescue committee, who is a member of the Liaison committee, the committee, which has been working as bridge between the Panchhari Chattagram Jono Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and the government of Bangladesh to hold dialogue towards bringing out a lasting solution of the longstanding Chittagong Hill Tracts insurgency problem, said today that a letter on behalf of the rescue committee has been forwarded to PCJSS yesterday evening for immediate release of nine persons who were reportedly kidnapped by the tribal insurgents, the armed group of PCJSS from Panchhari thana of the district recently.

Young woman raped

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Aug 4: A young woman was allegedly raped in village Uchhlapara under Kulaura thana of the district recently.

According to the police, the victim Luky, 22, daughter of Zaber Miah of the village was allegedly kidnapped by a gang of miscreants and raped her in an abandoned building.

The victim was admitted at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital with serious injuries. Father of the victim, Zaber Miah filed a rape case against Ismail Miah of the same village in this connection. No arrest was made till writing of this report.

3 charge-sheeted for being involved in acid throwing incident

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 4: Tarail police have submitted charge-sheet against three persons for their alleged involvement in acid throwing incident on two sisters and their brother recently. The accused are — Rafique, Mizanur Rahman and Alauddin. All of them have been charged under different sections of the cruelty to women and children act-1995.

According to the police, the accused persons threw acid on Pyara Akhtar Kochi, 18, Farzana Hoque Ruma, 15, and Asaduzzaman, 13, through the window while all of them were in deep sleep side by side in their house at village Kajla-Bagarbaid in Tarail thana. Two sisters were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the brother was admitted to Karimganj hospital.

Golam Sabbir, officer-in-charge of Tarail thana and I O of the case after proper investigation submitted charge-sheet to the court. All the accused are still at large but efforts are in progress to nab them, police said.

Stolen motor cycle recovered

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 4: The DB police of Kishoreganj recovered a stolen motor-cycle in a raid in the house of one Muklesur Rahman of village Pachchim Fulbaria in Brahmanbaria sadar thana recently.

Earlier, Md. Samiruddin sub-inspector of DB arrested one Shahabuddin from Dholapara area in Dhaka city and on the basis of his confessional statement recovered the motor-cycle.

The 100 CC motor-cycle was stolen from the house of Md. Idris Ali of Gaitail in Kishoreganj town on April 23.

Flood, erosion affected people in Pabna leading miserable life

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 4: More than 2,000 houses of about 30 villages under four thanas of Pabna district outside the flood control embankment on the bank of the two giant

meagre in quantity. According to an estimate of losses incurred in Sujanagar thana alone, prepared by the Agriculture Department, 685 hectares of paddy, 380



PABNA: A flood inundated house deserted by its inhabitants in village Chara in the greater district of Pabna. — Star photo

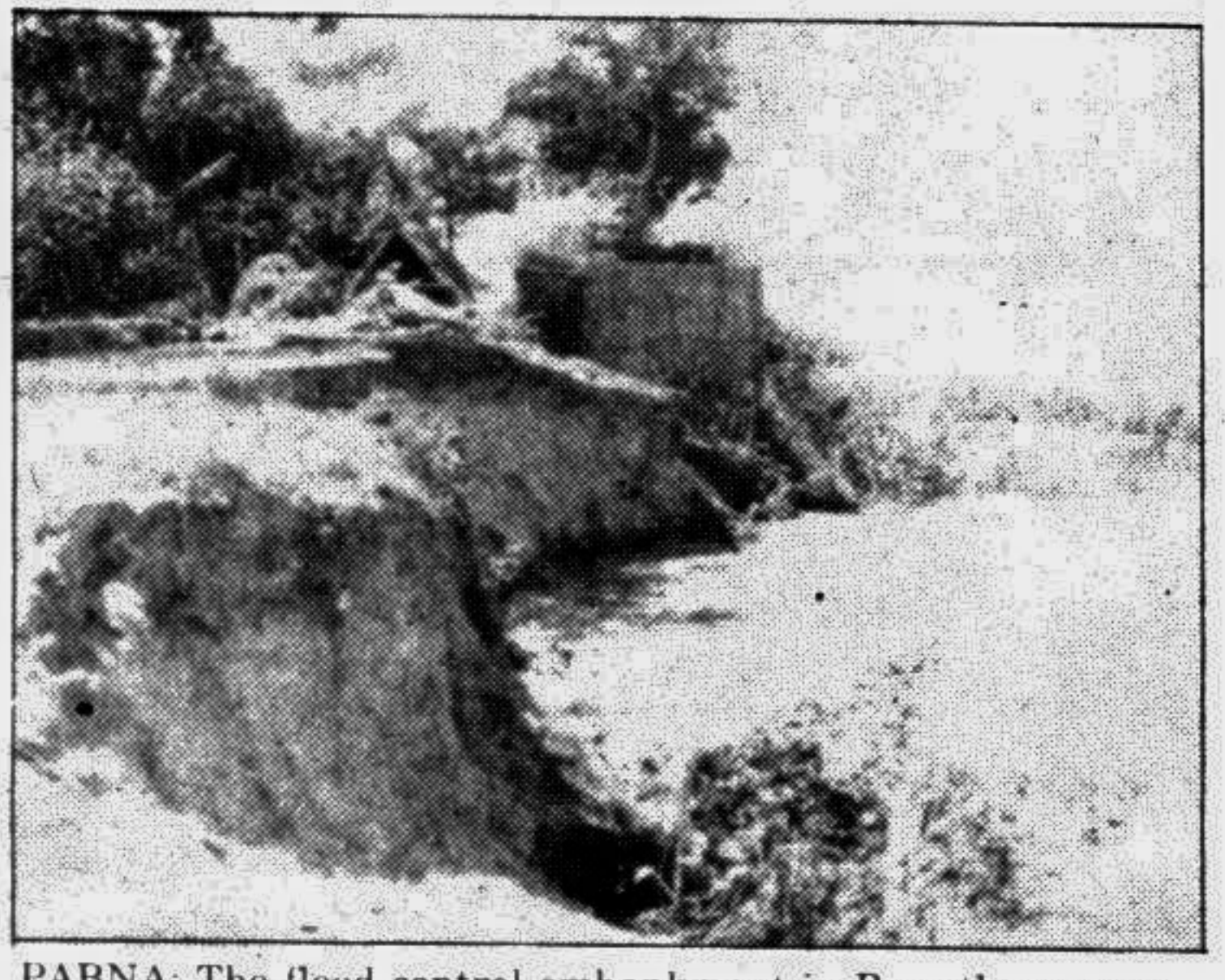
hectares of transplanted aman paddy, 185 hectares of jute, 53 hectares of vegetables — rivers — Jamuna and the Padma — were grabbed by erosion rendering over 5,000 people homeless. The affected people were compelled to take shelters on the said flood control embankment although the embankment itself is under threat of erosion.

Many people in the affected areas are being compelled to sell out their beloved cattle at cheaper rates.

Several villages under Sagarikandi, Nazirganj, Manikhat, Sujanagar and Satbaria unions of Sujanagar thana were affected by severe erosion in the river Padma during last three weeks and about 100 houses, situated outside the flood control embankment, were already grabbed by the river. Erosion is continuing in these areas — severely affecting Barkhanpur of Nazirganj unions and Machhapara of Manikhat union.

The Deputy Commissioner, the Thana Nirbahi Officers of Bera, Sujanagar, Faridpur and Santhia thanas visited the affected areas and distributed some relief materials though

hectares of transplanted aman paddy, 185 hectares of jute, 53 hectares of vegetables —



PABNA: The flood control embankment in Bera thana near Bera Pump House is under a severe threat caused by erosion in river Jamuna. — Star photo

Flood waters enter Chandpur town

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 4: The flood situation in Chandpur district took a serious turn from Thursday as fresh areas were inundated following rise of water levels in the river the Meghna, Padma, Dakatia and Donagoda due to onrush of flood water from northern districts.

According to Chandpur flood control office sources, Meghna at Chandpur is flowing 94 centimetres above danger level. About four lakh people were severely affected by the flood. The worst affected thanas are Chandpur sadar, Haimchar, Hajigonj and Matlab. So far 51 unions of the district were badly affected by flood. About 15 thousand people in different char unions of the district are marooned for a longtime. A large number of people took shelter on different irrigation embankments and Railway stations. Chandpur and Rajshahi and Ichali ferry ghat were submerged disrupting communication between Faridgonj and Haimchar

thanas. Heavy showers during the last few days thrashed the sufferings of flood affected people.

Standing crops on 40 thousand acres of land and 10 thousand houses were damaged.

Due to onrush of flood water near Chandpur, the steamer and launch terminal have been facing threat of erosion.

Meanwhile an alternative launch terminal was constructed near Madrasa Road for the safe journey of the passengers.

Flood water also entered in vast areas of the district town. Houses, roads, markets are inundated. The worst affected areas of the town are: Nazirpara, Professor para, Taltala, Govt Staff Quarters, Bishnudi, Molla para, Rahamatpur colony, Station Road and Govt Womens College road.

Government has so far sanctioned Taka one lakh twenty thousand in cash, 120 metric tons of rice, 100 tins of biscuit and 5000 pieces of sarces.

Sensational Latif murder

Piara Begum, her accomplices arrested

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 4: Surayya Zaman alias Piara Begum and her accomplices were arrested by Kushtia police recently from her house on charge of murdering her son-in-law Latif, an electrician of a housing estate.

It was reported that accused Piara Begum in a planned manner killed Latif in 1994 and tried to escape the murder charge by adopting various means. ASP CID Kushtia Zone filed a case in 1994 accusing 4 persons including Surayya Zaman alias Piara Begum in July under Arms Act and Special Powers Act of 1974. On the accusation police arrested the accused and sent them to court. Magistrate refused bail petition and sent them to police remand.

It may be mentioned that the victim Latif had a love affair with Sharmin Zaman Shampa daughter of Piara Begum and later they were married. But the mother and her other relations could not accept the marriage and planned to murder him. With this motive Latif was called at her house near Kushtia Government Girls College and allegedly began to torture him by tying his hands and legs.

At one critical stage he was handed over to police giving some arms in his hands and saying that he attacked them with arms. Seeing the critical condition police arranged for admission in Kushtia General Hospital and later he was shifted to Dhaka where he

died after 20 days of struggle for life.

People of Housing Estate brought out a procession with the dead body of Latif and demanded arrest of Piara Begum and other responsible for his murder. Police reportedly did not take immediate action for reason best known to them. As a result processionists gheraoed the police station and pelted bricks on police station. Police resorted to lathi charge and blank fire to disperse the crowd. After that CID took up the case.

Heroin recovered in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 4: Bangladesh Rifles recovered 400 grams heroin from a minibus coming from Nawabganj at Muralpur crossing in the city on Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on tip-off, BDR jawans recovered the heroin worth about Tk two lakh which was kept inside a pillow. The seized contraband was deposited with the Narcotics Control Department.

Earlier, patrolling BDR arrested two people and recovered a pistol from them from Bidpur ghat in Godagari thana.

The arrested Nawsad Ali and Asmaul Hossain were handed over to the police.

Gun battle leaves one dead in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 4: One person was killed and 15 others were injured in a gun battle between two rival groups at village Daierpara under Daulatpur thana late last week. Eyewitnesses said paddy cutting by force in a disputed field resulted in a fierce battle between two groups where Wazali, 32, son of Daud Ali was killed on the spot while victim's brother, Tozammel Huq was seriously wounded.

Eyewitnesses said that both the parties were prepared for the clash and they were equipped with gun, cut rifle, hand bombs and other sharp weapons in a bid to take possession of the field.

Injured Tozammel was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital while other injured persons were admitted in Daulatpur Thana Health Complex. Dead body of Waz Ali was sent to Kushtia General Hospital for postmortem.

No body has yet been arrested. No body went to police station to file any case. Daulatpur police however has registered a case in this connection.

3 alleged smugglers arrested

From CHT Correspondent

PANCHHARI, (Khagrachhari), Aug 4: The Khagrachhari hill district Task Force Committee has here rounded up last Tuesday three alleged smugglers and recovered a large quantity of smuggled goods from there possession at Panchhari bazar in Panchhari thana of the district, police sources said.

The arrested persons and the recovered Indian smuggled goods were handed over to Panchhari thana police by the Task Force personnel, sources said.

The raid was conducted by magistrate Noor Mohammad Majumdar and custom inspector Kamaruddin, member of the district task force, sources added.

Smuggled goods seized in Feni

FENI, Aug 4: A huge quantity of smuggled Indian goods were seized from a bus near Mohipal on Dewanganj-Feni bypass here last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, BDR men of 7 Rifle battalion raided a bus on the bypass on July 25 last and seized 505 pieces of Indian saree, 660 pieces perfume and crockery and arrested a man in this connection.

The arrested man was handed over to local police and the seized goods were deposited with the customs godown.