From Jan-M ay this yr in Bandarbun

# Malaria, diarrhoea claim 52 lives, more than 20,000 attacked

BANDARBUN. Aug 10: Malaria and diarrhoea have been assuming a serious proportion in the district taking a toll of 200 lives and attacked over one lakh people during the last seven months from January to July this year, headmen of the Mauzas. chairmen of union parishads and local leaders alleged.

According to official statistic, malaria and diarrhoea have claimed 52 lives and attacked 20,512 people from January-May, 1996.

Variation exists in the statistics of malarial and diarrhoeal death as well as attack as majority of the patients could neither seek treatment in the hospitals nor inform the authority of their ailment due to bad communication, inaccessibility and lack of motivation as well as proper monitoring, a officer from the civil surgeon office said.

"Despite all the sincere intentions, it has become difficult to contain the deadly disease, malaria, in the hill district of Bandarbun, one of the 'malaria high risk zone' in the country due to shortage of medical professionalists. scarcity of medicine, constraint of fund, inconvenience in communication as well as other related factors." Dr Ahmed Kabir, who took over the responsibility of the Civil Surgeon of Bandarbun hill district recently, told The Daily Star early this week, while detailing the reason for the continued outbreak of malaria in the district." We do not also get the accurate information in most cases because of the lack of health education of the affected people," Dr Kabir ob-

The figures and information available with the civil surgeon

office does not at all tally with those received from the public representatives, social workers and relatives of the victims. it was gathered.

According to official sources, malaria claimed 19 lives in Bandarbun sadar thana the best medically privileged one, out of seven thanas of the district, while the death figure recorded there was 'nil' against the worstly malaria affected and most inaccessible Thanchi thana in the district during January-May this year.

The official statistic available with the office of the Civil Surgeon shows that malaria claimed only two lives in Ruma thana of the district during January-May this year while local leaders and relations of the victims confidently produced the evidences to the effect that nine persons died of malaria in the month of May last alone in thana. Ruma Naingkhiongchhari and Lama thana 24 persons died of malaria with equal proportion from each thana during the

Malaria claimed the highest number of lives in May last in the district, official statistic

Cerebral malaria, attack of which is apparently, being observed in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region as the definite cease of life, has been claiming lives within 24-48 hours of attack. Malaria so far attacked 3,274 people in Naingkhiongchhari, 2,881 in sadar thana, 2,484 in Alikadam thana, 2,182 in Ruma thana, 1,007 in Thanchi thana and the highest as well as the lowest numbers of people in Lama and Roangchhari thana at 7,874 and 841 respectively.

official statistic says. Above 60 per cent malariaFr wm CHT Correspondent

cui ted people are being attac ked with jaundice and her vatitis, immediately after rec overy from the former diseas re. sufferers said.

In order to contain malaria. 2.5 163 mosquito-nets were ma de medicated by mixing wit h dintamethine, an antime daria liquid drug and distri butted for use in hospitals. po lice-lines, security forces' ba tracks and a few rural areas in May, 1995 formally. As no su rvey on using of medicated me sequito-nets was conducted by the health department, the re: sult yielded by it is yet to be kr town.

As no steps to fill up the vaca Jat posts of physicians in C HT region have vet been ta iken up, the net-work on re indering of medicare services h as been decreasing day by d ay, pushing the down-trodd en people of the insurgencyb attered region to a definite u nexpected death being unatt ended and untreated, local eaders alleged. The gradual f: all in medicare services in the g overnment sectors started v vith vesting of Health Departr nent under the Local Governr nent Councils in CHT in the econd half of June, 1989, the

a llegation added. Over 62 per cent post of hysicians in the three hill listricts of Bandarbun, Ranganati and Khagrachhari have been lying vacant for a long period.

According to official sources, 102 physians have peen working in 25 thana health complexes along with the three sadar hospitals in three district headquarters as against of 267 sanctioned posts of physicians.

Aheading 49 posts of physi-

cians lying vacant, 18 doctors have been attending the patients in seven thana health complexes and one sadar hospital in Bandarbun district headquarters with extreme difficulties. Eight doctors, who were posted here, have alferers alleged. legedly been keeping themselves absent from their place

portedly for higher training. According to set-up, there are 68 sanctioned posts of doctors in all the health institutions including union health centres in the district.

of posting unauthorisedly, re-

Doctor in the important post like Civil Surgeon has been changed twice in six months with the latest change in the last month. Normally, a Civil Surgeon looks after and monitor the day to day medicare activities in the district in addition to his administrative activity.

Two specialist physicians have been serving here as against of four for the last five vears, sources said. Ruma and Thanchi thana health complexes have been experiencing with 'no doctor taste' very regularly for the last few years.

The hapless people of this district are allegedly being blessed with the services of the doctors in 'dream' as the eighteen working doctors are supposed to attend about twelve people in a minute per

No ambulances are yet provided to five thana health complexes in the district while river-crafts are also yet to be provided to the riverine inaccessible thanas to carry the emergency patients to the health complexes.

The patients are getting malarial treatment in Thanchi and Roangchhari thanas of the

district allegedly without any blood test and pathological examination as there are no pathological technicians are posted there, though the thana health complexes got the requisite laboratory apparatus, suf-

Simultaneously, the similar scenario on the rendering of medicare services to the distress people of the hill districts of Rangamati and Khagrachhari by the government agencies has long been prevailsing, which started developing agitation among the people this region, Shah Newaz Babu, president Rangamati hill district unit of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal alleged. Only 48 doctors have been working in ten thana health complexes and a 100-bed so-called modern hospital at the district headquarters of Rangamati hill district as well as a few union health centres as against of 114 sanctioned posts of doctors. To be mothers are getting no treatment as there is no gynecologist employed in this district for the last four years, while three specialists are employed here out of seven in the district.

In eight thana health complexes and a sadar hospital at the district headquarters of Khagrachhari hill district 34 doctors have been serving against 85 posts of doctors. No steps have allegedly been initiated to recruit 51 doctors including four specialists in the district, sufferers alleged. To protect the distress

people of this region from the deadly disease malaria and ensure their health services, the sufferers sought the early steps of the authority to immediately sort out the longstanding problems in the local health

SHERPUR: Erosion of river Brahmaputra at Sherpur ferry ghat threatens the 33 KV power tower of PDB. — Star photo

#### Chandpur hospital beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 10 The 50bed Chandpur district hospital is beset with manifold problems including shortage of specialists, physicians, nurses, staff, accommodation, medicine and absence of children ward and blood bank. The hospital was established during British period, at present the existing beds of the hospital can meet only twenty per cent requirement of the patients. Most of the cots and bed sheets have become worh. Out and these are rarely replaced by new ones, patients alleged.

The post of consultants of medicine and surgery is vacant for long. There is no separate children ward in the hospital so child patients are admitted in the general word. In the absence of blood bank, the patients have to collect blood from outside. Sometimes blood collected from outside is found contaminated. Sometimes patients in critical condition die as blood cannot be provided in due time. Scarcity of life saving drugs has posed a great problem. Poor patients are the worst sufferer as they can not afford to purchase medicine from the markets. The diet supplied to the patients is also not up to the mark, the hospital patients complained. There is no proper arrangement for major operation in the hospital. The operation theatre is accommodated in a small room. There is a lack of modern equipments. Due to lack of seats many patients are given accommodation in the floor and verandah of the hospital.

the hospital which remains out of order. The staff and nurses are insufficient. There is no specialist for ENT, medicine, skin diseases. The people have urged the government to modernise the hospital into a hundred bed hospital. So that the problems of hospitals can be

There is only one ambulance in

## Minor boy drowns in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Aug 10: A minor boy drowned in a pond at village Jhatiapara in Karimganj thana on August 3.

Apel, 2, son of Saifur Rahman was playing beside the bank of the pond just adjacent to the house and suddenly slipped into the water. His body was later found afloat in

### Two alleged dacoits arrested

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ. Aug 10:

Two alleged dacoits were robbed by the police after they conducted a rail in Ashutaka-Manikpur village of Karimgani thana last week

They were identified as Bacchu and Zinat Takur both of them allegedly belonged to an inter-district gang of dacoits, police sources said.

According to the Karimgani thana. Abul Hashem, a bamboo trader of Gouripur bazar while returning after selling bamboo at Marichkhali bazar by a boat. came under the attack by a gang of dacoits near Ashutaka-Manikpur village. The dacoits snatched away Taka 8,500 in cash from him at gun-point and later fled the scene.

Immediately after the inci dent. Abul Hashem came to the Karimgani thana and informed the police of the incident After filing a case, Sub-Inspec tor Anwar Hossain along with a police force rushed to the Ashutaka-Manikpur village and arrested them. Abul Hashem identified both of them. Police. however, could not recover the looted money

The arrested alleged dacoits were veteran criminals and was allegedly involved in many dacoity cases in the locality, police added

#### Four govt colleges beset with problems BARISAL, Aug 10 Four gov

ernment colleges of the district are now beset with manifold problems including short age of teaching staff, reports

Posts of some 60 teachers are now lying vacant at Government Brojomohon University College, Barisal Government College, Government Syed Hatem Ali College and Government Womens' College

In Government Brojomohon University College, posts of five Associate Professors, eight Assistant Professors, 10 lectures and two posts of demonstrators at master degree and honours levels are lying vacant for a long time.

Twenty five posts of teachers at degree and HSC levels also fell vacant since long. Meanwhile, there is no principal in the college as the newly appointed principal could not take over charge in the face of student protest.

Government Barisal College is also run ing with shortage of 12 teache's - two Associate Professors and 10 lecturers.

Posts of one Assistant Professor and 15 lecturers have been lying vacant at Barisal Government Womens' College while posts of one Assistant Professor and two lecturers also feel vacant at Government Syed Hatem Ali

# Smuggling at Hilli curbed for the 'time-being'

by E kram Kabir, back from Joypurhat

Fund ishortages may hamper

affores station plan in Jhenidah

From Delwar Kabir

25 per cent of forest is re-

quired for the country. But

Jhenidah district has about 2.5

per cent of forest resources. It

was two per cent before 1981

when government started

community forestry and social

out of total 182 nurseries

there are 51 private nurseries

in Jhenidah sadar thana. 45 in

Sailkupa thana, 15 nurseries in

Harinakundu thana. 33 nurs-

eries in Kaliganj thana. 24

nurseries in Kotchandpur

thana and 14 in Mohespur

thana. These private nurseries

are producing at least one

cerned department sources

that about 15 lakh saplings

were transplanted in different

parts of the district by gov-

ernment and non-government

owner of Karim nursery at

Sailkupa it was learnt that

about 85 lakh saplings are sold

for other places of the country

ber of the same are sold for

by some agents. A good num-

Talking to Atwar Rahman.

It was learnt from the con-

crore saplings every year.

organisations last year.

Sources also informed that

afforestation programme.

Sources also said, at least

Aug 10: Smuggling through I fi ili and its adjacent areas of Indo-Banglades it i border have remarkably been dieted during the last 30 days although Joypurhat bus-termin a al market is in abundance of cheap-selling Ind wan sugar. "This illegal-enterprise red; a ction has been

possible due to Bangladesh P Mes' scrupulous activities," said a Joypurhat -based suppliercontractor, requesting an monymity, who frequently makes business travels on the Panchbibi-Joypurhat-Hilli route. "But I'm sceptic that this trend may a not turn out to be permanent, because I'm sus picious about our border security personnel's squareness," he expressed his fear while tal king to The Daily

Just a month ago, abou t 20 trucks-load of "actionable" sugar had been crossing the Bangla Hilli everyday which now has come down to a comparatively-negligible three or four. Among other consumer items -- w thich are far cheaper on the other side of the boder - that normally pour into this country a re essential foodstuff like wheat and pulses. These are also in short supply when it comes to smuggling.

reports.

non-govern-

year. The de-

Smuggling by definiti on never takes place through the customs der partment since it's out of question. What is done at the hands of customs officials is "so me" portion of the incoming goods go "und ocumented", informed the local sources. Fo r example, while the estimate in black and white by the authority

JHENIDAH, Aug 10: Af

forestation progra imme is

likely to be ham pered in

Jhenidah district fo r want of

Jhenidah has no fo rest area in

tion programme we us started in

the district. Socia I afforesta-

the district by for 'est depart-

ment organisatic ins (NGOs)

However, no NGC ) could start

the programme as they were

not in a positio in to receive

fund under Worl d Food Project

(WFP) this year, the district

forest departn ment sources

The district forest depart-

ment produced 50.000

partment was able to produce

When contacted the Assis-

tant Conserv a tor of Forest

(ACF). Jhenida il i zone acknowl-

edged the fact saying that they

could not produce rest of the

targeted 2,0( ),000 saplings as

they could not get the approval

saplings we re raised from six

tral nurser ies is six thanas of

nurseries i ricluding two cen-

ACF told that only 52.000

2,50,000 saplir ags last year

fund, it is apprehen: 1ed

According to

ment and some

saplings this

for new sche imes.

the district 1 his year

concerned shows an shipment to be 10 tons but in reality, it's double. This side of the illegal traders aren't always

at the receiving end. They are also active in sending electronic goods, spare parts of watches and clocks to Indian traders at India Hilli while Bangladesh smugglers get automobile parts in exchange.

On the face of tighter security, illegal channeling of many items across the boder has been curbed, but Indian sarees and fabrics are still in saffron situation as before which is taking a heavy toll on the country's textile indus-Meanwhile the informed circle in Joypurhat

thinks that the Anti-smuggling Task Force is doing a noteworthy job. but they are failing to break the smugglers' chain-of-form. They presume the sudden decline in smuggling is a forthe-time-being phenomenon. According to local enthusiasts, who are vo-

cal against illegal bode-trade, they have wit nessed a few arrests made - but the majority of across-the-border business people are allegedly being left scot-free for reasons known otherwise. These still-to-be-arrested traders who apparently have a strong ghetto - are well-known to all: and the law enforcers are overlooking them, it was alleged by many.

in hardship.

Barind project areas. But they

might incur heavy loss as nei

ther government nor NGOs are

purchasing the saplings from

them which is throwing them

Forest further informed that

they had taken a target to sup-

ply 7,200 saplings to some

4.000 institutions including

two kilometre afforestation by

the Roads and Highways in

Jhenidah sadar thana, 20,000

saplings in Sailkupa thana

8.600 saplings in Harinakundu

thana, 8,000 saplings in Kali

ganj thana. 1.500 saplings in

Kotchandpur thana and 5,300

tres of Roads and Highways

five kilometres of canal and 13

kilometres of connecting roads

will be brought under af

forestation programme this

that 32 kilometres of Roads

and Highways. 48 kilometres

canal and 60.47 kilometres

connecting roads were brought

under afforestation programme

last year and over two lakh

saplings were supplied by for-

est department in the district

Sources further informed

Sources said, 15.50 kilome

saplings in Mohespur thana.

Assistant Conservator of

# In 1995-96 FY

# Record number of cargo handled at Mongla Port

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 10: A total of 28 lakh 39 thousand metric tons of cargos were handled at Mongla Port from the first day of July, 1995 to June 30. 1996. It is an all time record. said a source of Mongla Port authority The source further said that

during 1994-95 fiscal the port handled 28.26.000 metric tons of cargos which means that the operational activities made progress during the following financial year. The source further said that a total of 24 lakh 43 thousand metric tons of imported goods were unloaded and three lakh ninety six thousand metric tons of exportable goods loaded at the port during the last fiscal year marking the record quantity of cargoes handled

But during 1994-95 fiscal year 21 lakh 20 thousand met ric tons of imported goods were unloaded, while 7.06.000 metric tons loaded Besides, 18.820 containers

were handled during the year 1995 96 which was 16.039 during the fiscal year 1994-95. According to Mongla Port authority, a total of Tk 63 crore six lakh was earned as revenue during last financial year. Out of this, a total of 44 crore and 56 crore taka was spent for different purposes.

But the total amount of rev enue earning during the 1994. fiscal year 61.96.94000, while Tk 41 crore 64 lakh and 55,000 were spent for port develop-

So, the total amount of net

profit is over 17 crore taka.

the source added.

### Motor launch workers go on strike in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 10: Workers of motor launches plying on all routes of south Khulna have gone on strike from Thursday morning for indefinite period in protest against police harassment and arrest of eight employees for interrogation in connection with a theft case recorded with Koira thana on Tuesday last

According to Koira thana police, a sum of Tk 5,34,500 deposited with the ticket clerk of motor launch Murshid by some fish traders on way to Khulna from Koira was allegedly misappropriated. The fish traders after reaching Khulna asked for the money but the ticket clerk refused to return it.

# Manikganj JCD demands removal of ASP

From Our Correspondent MANIKGANJ, Aug 10 JCD activists of Manikganj brought out a procession today demanding removal of the ASP. Manikgani circle.

They alleged that ASP Sanaullah works in favour of a certain political party. They also called for a halfday hartal in Manikgani on

Saturday

# villages in Jessore

JESSORE, Aug 10: Over 35 villagers under 10 unions of Keshabpur, Monirampur and Obhainager thanas in the district, have been inundated in flash flood, triggered by torrential rains adversely affecting two lakh inhabitants of the

area recently, according to

Reports received here from local thana administration office, say that in Keshabpur thana 28 villages in seven unions including Mongolkot. Keshabpur-part, Pajia Sufalakati, Gaurighana, Biddanundakati and Majidpur unions out of a total of nine unions. have gone under water. The inhabitants in the affected area remain stranded. All roads and communications connecting the main land have been snapped. All their economic activities have come to a standstill giving to various problems including shelter food and medical aid.

port, the condition of Ne-Sadek has visited the affected halpur and Shamker unions of Monirampur thana and Peara union of Obhainagor thana appears more deplorable. All areas have been eut off from

their adjoining areas and affected people are virtually detached from the main land. When contacted local thana source told that aman crop could be cultivated in these vast areas following the flash food and in fact, over 4000 the godown. hectares of aman cultivated land have remained untouched

in this season. When contacted the Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Keshabpur, Anisur Rahman told that entire southern portion of Keshabpur thana is completely submerged and people of this area are marooned, seeking help from outside to survive the deterio-

Torrential rain floods 35

From Our Correspondent

According to another re-

rating situation. He also informed that min-

areas to see things for himself and find out a permanent solution to end the disaster. When asked whether any sort of relief materials have

ister for education A S H K

been extended to these flood affected people, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO) Abdur Rob, told The Daily Star that no relief could be arranged for them so far due to shortage of materials in In this connection, he fur-

ther informed that Deputy Commissioners, Jessore, has meanwhile, taken up the matter with the ministry concerned for immediate supply of relief goods in sufficient quantity to tackle the situation They were waiting for the response. He said that at the moment, there was only 10 metric tons of wheat at the disposal of DRRO, Jessore. No loss of life was reported yet.



RAJSHAHI: Maolana Kamaluddin Jafri, Secretary, Sharia Council of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited addressing a discussion meeting on "Islamic Bank and Shariah Principle" at the IBBL Rajshahi Branch auditorium recently. Star photo

# Cooking gas cylinder crisis: Buyers demand cancellation of dealership

From Our Correspondent CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 10

Cooking gas-crisis Chapainawabgani has become acute. The consumers of gas of the district have been suffering a lot from the crisis of gas for more than a year. This crisis allegedly created by the deal ers was protested by the Gas Cylinder Buyers' Association The leaders of the Association demanded the cancellation of the dealership of the 5 gas dealers of the district recently at a press conference arranged by them at Chapainawabgani Press Club.

It is known, five dealers of the district sell gas cylinders. Taking the advantage of gas crisis during the last one year they had been selling each cylinder at 350 to 500 taka. When ever demanded by the buyers to sell the cylinders at the actual price the dealers used to harass them and would not supply them any cylinder. At this, in February the buyers formed an association and protested these irregularities and harassment by the dealers. At the formation of the Buyers Association the dealer almost stopped supplying cylinders to the ordinary customers and

began to sell cylinders secretly

at the previous high rates to the selected customers who were supposed not to protest

On April 11, ADC Nawabganj on behalf of the district administration called on a meeting at the conference room of DC with the participation of 5 gas dealers, the leaders of the buyers association and some elites of the district. In the meeting it was resolved that cards would be given to the registered cylinder-owners and cylinders would be supplied at first to those who in the meantime deposited their cylinders to the dealers and then to those who had been registered by the Association. It was also resolved that a proper seriality would be maintained.

The leaders of the Association, in a press conference recently alleged that violating the decision of the meeting the dealers still continue selling the cylinders in the black market. So they demanded immediate cancellation of the dealership of all the 5 dealers. They also warned to launch a greater movement if the problem was not solved immediately.

# Crime rate on decrease in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 10 A sense of relief has been returned in the public minds of the district following the decrease in criminal and terrorist activities, reports UNB.

Police sources said during the month of July two incidents of murder, five thefts and two dacoities were committed in nine thanas of the district which were negligible than that of the previous month.

Following the police hunt and arrest of criminals the criminal activities and political clashes have decreased to a great extent.

Meanwhile, police arrested Abdul Kader, a notorious ter rorist of Mahmud Mohalla in the town on August 3. They arrested Nuru of Dhanagara, who had been associated for long with smuggling and collection of tolls from train passengers.

Police, however, said, most of the criminals who are being set free from the court again engage themselves in criminal activities causing deterioration of law and order situa-

#### Youngman stabbed in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 10: Anisur Rahman Pitar. 22. a degree student of Gopalganj Government Bangabandhu College and son of former chairman of Gopalganj pourashava Hafizur Rahman (Palu Mia) was stabbed by some youngmen of the town recently.

Anisur Rahman was taking tea in a shop with his friends at Monohar Patty, when a group of youngmen stabbed him. He was seriously injured and was admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

A case has been registered with Gopalganj police in this connection.

