

Flood in Pabna: Ishurdi Airport may be inundated

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 8: Vast areas around Ishurdi airport has been inundated due to flood in river Pabna. Although flood situation, specially, the water level in the river was more or less static since Friday, new areas are still being inundated. The low-lying areas in the flood affected unions of the district were going under water till waiting this report on Saturday evening. This has fosed threat to Ishurdi airport.

Meanwhile, ferri services between Paksey and Bheramara ferri ghats were still facing frequent disruptions as all the four ferries plying between the two ferri ghats-Paksey and Bheramara were taking too much time in crossing the turbulent river Padma.

Norwally, it takes over 20 minutes, but new-a-days, it was taking more than two hours to cross the same distance.

The flow of current in the river was to heavy in the river

was too heavy. Ferries were being swept away about a mile in the downstreams and from there again, the ferries have to force way up stream to reach destination.

A transport driver said that new ferries should be placed in this ghat during the rainy season and lighter ones during the lean period. The above problem has threatened the road communication between the districts of the northern and southern zones. Even today, about 300 vehicles, including trucks loaded with perishable goods, were lying stranded on both the ghats.

This correspondent visited areas of the flood affected areas within Pabna-Sadar thana over an engine-boat on Saturday. During the journey, it was found that about 20,000 men, women and children were lying marooned within the river Padma. Many of the thatched

houses were swept away by the river without giving any time to the owners thereof to break the douses and remove them to safer place. At least 1,000 houses were thus carried away by the turbulent river.

Moreover, 2000 more houses were found eroded with no trace of the bhiti even, the correspondent also found many of affected people breaking their houses and keeping them at some higher place so that they could remove them as soon as they find any local for the purpose it least 300 such houses came to the notice during the eight house journey.

The sufferings of the people became extremely acute in villages char Madharipur, char Bhoueamipur, Khish char Balarampur, Char Mahipara, Jote Kankuria, Gangadhar, Basuderpur, Peerpur, Balarampur, Sreerampur, Raiballapur and Bhandanga as almost 95 pc houses of these villages were ei-

ther eroded or broken and carried away by the severe current or have been removed.

The Chairman of Bharara union, Mosharrar Hossain, said that although all the above villages full within the territorial jurisdiction of his union, it has been extremely difficult even for him and for all the elected members of his union to move house-to-house or even village-to-village to see the exteriors and miseries of the people for want of boats-badly needed now for various purposes.

There is scarcity of boats. 'Dingi manka' boats are quite unfit for the purpose due to strong current in the river. These small traditional boats, though not in sufficient number, are however available but not the big engine-boats which alone can serve the purpose. Hence, due to the difficulties, distribution of relief materials and reaching other necessities were extremely difficult.

The chairman also disclosed that at least 95 pc of the tubewells in the affected under Bharara union were washed away and they were vendred quite unserviceable. The people, solely dependant on tubewells for the drinking water they need, are facing vast sufferings for procuring water from distant areas where one or two tubewells in unaffected cordition.

This correspondent also noticed, in a very few areas though, men and women using banana vellas for proauring a jug of water.

Fedous Alam Khan, alias Gadamoni, Chairman, Char Tarapur union of Pabna sadar thana detailed out the devastations as about 2,000 persons in his union were rendered homeless, about 10,000 were beady affected, nearly 5,000 still lying marooned, over 15,000 acres of land bearing various crops were simply washed away and 15

mosques an 17 educational institutions were incrdated.

Naming the villages as Gohalleri, Arial Gohallari, Bhaduria dangi, Bholardangir char, Hazarbar Khas, Dighi Gohallari, Bahirchar, Daspara, Balladangi and Khas chen Dhupra Khole to have been badly effected by severe erosion in the river Padma which took a virulent look this year.

It was further learnt that vilages Kamarpur, Kushakhali, char Kushakkah, Radhakantapur, Radhakantapur, Ghoshpur, char Ghoshpur, Char Sadirapur, Raninagar and several other vilages of Dogachhi union have also been beady affected and faced similar damages and destructions.

When contacted, teh District Rehip and Rehabilitation Officer Pabna, was not available over telephon and hence official assessments of damages and relief distributed could not be athered.

News from Kushtia

Sub-standard drugs sold in medicine stores **Classes resume at IU**

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 8: Sub-standard medicines are being sold with impunity since there are about 1000 unlicensed medicine shops in different parts of the district causing health hazards of the poor. The unlicensed druggists sell sub-standards drug random like syrup, digestive medicines and sedatives and the drug addicts through the drug stores in the evening. The hawkers sell different kinds of tablets, capsules in hats and bazars of the district. The grocers sell birth control pill, condominium, parapyrol tablets, Spurious ointment, etc. Spurious ointment manufacturing companies send their representatives in the district town who contacts the unlicensed druggists to take their medicines at high rate of commission and as a result spurious medicine are being sold in different parts of the district as there is none to look after all these anti-people activities. When contacted these druggists told this correspondent that they have tried their best to procure drug license but in vain. They remarked that it is not easy to get a drug license. Some people are also engaged in medicine practice without MBBS degree giving their false identity as doctors. The law enforcing agencies and health department have no headache to detect these false doctors. The sub-standard drugs are no doubt harmful to the patients which endangers their lives. People have urged the concerned authority to take stringent measures against the unscrupulous people engaged in medicine business.

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 8: Cultivation of banana as both vegetable and fruit has been gaining popularity in the region. It is learnt that as the cultivation of banana has been more profitable peasants are more inclined to bring maximum land under banana farming. It is further learnt that the normal soil and climate of our country is very favourable for the cultivation and growth of banana in both winter and summer seasons. Therefore it is being cultivated on high land of large scale round the year while this plant with soft straight stem is used as edible. There is less possibility of any harm to the plant by the storm and rain. Besides pest attack is hardly noticed. Ripe banana is a nutritious fruit which contains large percentage of vitamin A and C and also it is tasteful and good for health. There is a bright prospect for producing banana in our country particularly in drought affected areas of North Bengal. It is widely felt that if this fruit is cultivated on a large scale it will help make a new economic base for the farmers of the region.

A total of 5 thousand acres of land in the district have been brought under banana cultivation. More than three varieties of bananas are produced in the district of which Sagar, Sofri and Manda noteworthy. Besides banana growers are not aware of modern techniques and use of irrigation. Experts said though some farmers tried to use fertilizer they failed to get good result because fertilizer was not applied properly.

Gambling rampant in local trains

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 8: Gambling and pickpocketing have become rampant in the local trains running daily in between Poradah and Rajbari line causing much annoyance to the travelling people. An organised gang of gamblers travel regularly in the trains of the line and induce the passengers in gambling and make them penniless. The gamblers move from one compartment to another and cheat the passengers. The pickpockets are also active. The travelling people, specially rural people, become victims of the pickpockets. A group of frauds travel regularly in the line to sell tabiz. They realise Tk 15 to 20 as cost of tabiz from the simple passengers. People urge upon the govt. to take measures to stop the activities of these anti social elements in the trains of Poradah-Rajbari Railway line.

Stipend distributed

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 8: Educational Merit Stipend distribution ceremony under the auspices of "Dr. Kashem Nahar Primary Education Expanding Trust" was held on Monday at the auditorium of Kushtia Polytechnic Institute. Presided over by Dr. Abul Hashem, elder son of Dr. Abul Kashem the distribution ceremony was attended by A F M Serajul Haq, Deputy Commissioner as chief guest. The chief guest while addressing said that though he did not have the opportunity to see Dr. Abul Kashem but he has come to know many things about his dedication for the cause of health care of the common people and his clinic is giving immense services in that direction. Now his well-capable sons are dedicating their services for the cause of expanding education in memory of their father and mother. He assured all possible help and cooperation in this respect. District and Session Judge N K Chakravarty in his speech as special guest said that education increases sharpness of merit which helps reaching the target of a person on his way of life and this happened in the life of Dr M A Kashem. Others who spoke on the occasion were Anwar Ali, Chairman, Kushtia Poushava, Dr. Abul Barkat, Dr A K M Munir, Walil Bari Choudhury, Advocate Lutfor Rahman and Nazrul Islam. One hundred eleven meritorious students of 6 primary schools of Kushtia received the stipend amounting to Taka 63,100.00.

Disease spreads in border areas

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 8: A disease named PPR have broken out in border areas of greater Kushtia district and other 25 thanas of border areas of other district in epidemic form killing about 5 thousand goats during last several months. The specialists called the disease Pestidom Pliptis Rumiments or in other word PPR. When attacked by the disease the goats suffer from fever frequent discharge of stool and slimpery water like substance come out from mouth. The owners are not conscious about the disease and necessary medicines are not available for the disease. As a result about 5 thousand goats have died of the disease. The livestock department concerned have opined that huge quantity of medicines are required for the disease in order to save the goats from further destruction.

Fish scarcity

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 8: Scarcity of fish in local markets has been acute for quite sometime adversely affecting food habit of common people. It is learnt that many varieties of fish have now become costlier item due to small supply but higher demand. According to a survey report native carp like ruhi, mrigal and katla have the most dear appearance in markets while mung, shing, kol, putti, maya, khalisha have followed suit. Even some varieties of sea fish available in plenty a few years ago are no longer available at nominal price. Same is the case with exotic carp like grass silver and mirror carp. Prices of these varieties have shot up abnormally.

Small size hilsa is occasionally available in the fish markets in small quantity even at this time of the year when fish is supposed to be available in plenty. As a result prices remain high. It is also learnt that the picture prevailing in rural hats and bazars are not better. Fish of any variety have now become luxury food.

Indiscriminate and widespread use of insecticides including Dieldron, Aldron, Heptacolar, Chlorodyne Thiodin, Tynol and Hulfish in agriculture fields have been contributed to deaths of fish habitat. Kushtia is noted for having a good number of pisciculture projects throughout the district. Some of the water bodies are used for fish development under World Bank loan with a determined efforts to boost fish production in massive quantity purely on scientific method to meet local deficit.

Birth anniversary

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 8: 163rd birth anniversary of veteran journalist, litterateur, poet and writer Kargal Harinath Majumdar was observed here at his own residence situated in Kumarkhali thana recently. The function was sponsored by Kargal Harinath Smiti Sangsad and its front organisations and Kargal Harinath Library and Songs storehouse.

Despite frequent raids smuggling of contraband drugs increases

JESSORE, Sept 8: Special team led by Assistant Director Narcotic Department, Jessore, recovered huge quantity of contraband drugs including 53 bottles of foreign liquor, 24 cans of beer, and nine bottles of phenisidyl syrup worth Taka 60,000, from Magura town and arrested shopkeeper Gopal Chandra Rudra from where possession the recovery was made in an anti drug operation on Sept 3 last. The arrested person was handed over to local thana and a case was recorded.

In similar operation by this department personnel huge quantity of contrabands including rectified spirit were recovered from Moniruzzaman and Bargachara bazar in the district recently.

According to office source of Deputy Director, Narcotic Department, Jessore, a total of 6,440 bottles of phenisidyl syrup and another 40 liters of the same in a-jerry can were recov-

ered from various markets in greater Jessore during the period from January to August last. A total of 47 alleged smugglers were nabbed, the source added. When contacted Deputy Director, Narcotic Department, Wahiduzzaman told The Daily Star that out of total seizure BDR, Jessore, deposited 6,137 bottles and the jerry can containing 40 litres of phenisidyl, and the rest 303 bottles were seized by his department during the period under review.

He also said that out of total persons arrested six were arrested by them while the other 41 by BDR men.

When asked where other departments including police and customs deposited phenisidyl or narcotics during the period, he replied in the negative.

In reply to the questions whether contraband drugs, seized by customs and police

were deposited with local narcotics godown like BDR, Deputy Director could not give any satisfactory reply.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that in coming contraband drugs including phenisidyl was on increase from across the border and its abuse by young children in particular was alarmingly rising, what steps were taken by the narcotic department to check its smuggling into the country, Deputy Director said no measures would be effective unless people were aware of the bad effect of the drug and resisted.

A source on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that lack of transport for the office for use if and when necessary for state emergency, a spacious godown with night guard and lack of coordination between task force were bottlenecks for the department to discharge duty properly and effectively.



A FRUITLESS EFFORT: The picture showing a portion of bank of river Meghna in Natunbazar area where the Bangladesh Water Development Board authority made an effort to check further river erosion in the Chandpur town area recently. Most of the concrete blocks were, however, washed away and the rest may vanish any day. — Star photo

15 colleges in Chandpur may face closure

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, Sept 8: At least fifteen intermediate colleges in Chandpur district are likely to face closer for want of adequate number of students, shortage of fund and failure to meet some conditions of Government rules and regulations.

It is reported that only thirty per cent students from different high schools of the district came out successful in the last SSC Examination this year though the percentage of pass in the Comilla Education Board was about 47 per cent. There are two government colleges and twenty one private colleges in the district. The government colleges are Chandpur college and Chandpur Women's college. Of the twenty one private colleges only eight college are well established.

The colleges established at thana level are run properly. About twelve private colleges were established within last two years. Of these colleges four

at Kachua thana three at Matlab thana, three at Faridganj thana and one each in Haziganj and Haimchar thana. There are seven degree level colleges, one each at Puranbazar, Haziganj, Faridganj, Matlab, Kachua, Shaharati and Haimchar.

These colleges are run by non government managing committee and DC is the chairman of the Governing body. The students having high marks are being admitted into two Govt Degree colleges.

There are about twelve HSC level colleges in the district. Only fifty to sixty students are admitted in these colleges.

In some colleges there are about ten to fifteen students in eleven classes. Due to shortage of students many newly established colleges may be closed down.

Not only these colleges but some other well established Degree colleges will also be affected due to shortage of students.

Arakan army member held

From CHT Correspondent
RUMA (Bandarban), Sept 8: Mob rounded up an intruding insurgent of Myanmar on Thursday, while moving suspectedly at Moyurpara in Ruma thana of the district.

Shwai Thowai Marma, 35, reportedly a rebel from Myanmar allegedly attacked a villager at Moyurpara in Ruma thana of the district on September 5 last when the former was challenged his identity by the later. The villagers caught the attacker and handed him over to Ruma thana police, Ruma thana police said.

Ruma thana police, on search, recovered some documentary, papers and a chopper from the possession of the intruder. The papers recovered identify the foreign intruder as an active member of Arakan army, an aboriginal existing insurgency group of Arakan province in Myanmar, police added.

The intruder was sent to Bandarban court registering a case with Ruma thana in this connection.

Janmashtami utsav observed with great enthusiasum in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Sept 8: Sree Janmashtami utsav, an important festival of the Hindu community, was observed throughout the district of Pabna amidst great enthusiasum.

In Pabna town, three-day celebration were organised in this connection by a number of Janmashtami celebration committees in different temples like the Ramkrishan Shebshram and Bedanta Samity, Jaikahibari Kiritana Samity, Salsaria Govinda Mondir etc.

The programmes included recitations from the Holy Geeta, colorful rally, voluntary donation of blood, discussion meeting, Geeta-Alekhyia solree, Tathipija, cultural functions, distribution of lehog etc.

Thousands of Hindu devotees witnessed the functions from morning till late night on all the three days.

No outword incident was repered from any shere of the district.



PABNA: Hindu devotees brought out a colourful rally on the occasion of Janmashtami on September 4 sponsored by Ramkrishna Sebashtam. — Star photo

Islamic Foundation claims 95pc implementation of MINEP

NATORE, Sept 8: The Islamic Foundation office here has claimed 95 per cent implementation of the Mosque-based Integrated Nonformal Education Programme (MINEP) since its introduction in 1993, reports UNB.

Official sources said about 1,500 people of different age groups in sadar, Bariagram and Gurudaspur thanas of the district are enrolled every year in 45 MINEP centres of the foundation.

Introduced on January 1, 1993, on experimental basis

with trained imams and instructors, the foundation extended its programme following encouraging response from the local people.

MINEP centres, now run in two shifts, have been conducting one and two-year courses for the children of age groups between four and five years and six and ten years.

The boys between 11 and 14 years of age and persons being given one year long course.

Under the programme, students above 10 years are taught mathematics, Bangla and Arabic while children between six and 10 years are taught English additionally to prepare them for admission in Class III of primary schools.

Religious instructions with particular emphasis on learning manners and basic instructions to perform Namaz are also included in the programme. Equipment used in the programme are supplied free of cost to the participants.

District Islamic Foundation has appointed 45 trained imams as instructors and three librarians for the MINEP.

Deputy Director of the foundation MA Shakur told UNB that the class attendance was rated 90 per cent but it is necessary to introduce Food for Education programme to ensure cent per cent attendance.

Supervisor of MINEP Mujharul Islam said initial suspicion of the local people who thought the programme was part of NGO activity was quickly removed and the people, realising the importance and significance of the programme, extended their whole hearted cooperation.

He said there were demands for extending the programme to the rural areas but it could not be possible for lack of transport facility.

District workers meeting of AL held

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 8: A meeting of the workers of district Awami League was held recently at Yousof Memorial Trust Super Market, under Awami League leader Anwar Yousof in chair.

About two thousand workers attended the meeting to discuss various aspects of defeat of Awami League candidates in the recently held Jatio Sangsad Election in Kushtia district and to find out ways and means to make Awami League leaders acceptable to the common people by their work and dedication.

Anwar Yousof, who has declared his dedication to work as Mujib Force and a worker under Shaikh Hasina said, Awami League is a big organisation and believes in democracy and its activities should not be guided by the wish of a particular person. He laid emphasis on strengthening the organisation forgetting the past and urged upon the workers to continue their activities beyond the self interest.

The workers meeting was also addressed among others by advocate Azizur Rahman Akkas, former president of district Awami League, Advocate Shamsul Alam Dudu, former secretary of district Awami League, Advocate Abdul Awal Mia, former vice president of district Awami League, Mozibul Huq Margon, former president of Bheramara thana Awami League, Shaikh Ghias Uddin, Minito Anzul Huz vice-president Daulatpur Thana Awami League, Rebeka Pervin, general secretary, sadar thana Mahila Awami League.

About 200 workers from other parties joined Awami League imbued with dynamic leadership of Shaikh Hasina on the occasion.

Afforestation plan in Bandarban

From Our Correspondent
BANDARBAN, Sept 8: Local Forest Department has taken up a massive programme of tree planting and afforestation in the district during the current year, reports UNB.

The department planned to distribute at least 2,40,503 saplings of different varieties among the people in the district.

Officials said, some 1,74,799 saplings were already distributed at nominal prices. Of these, 27,702 were fruit-bearing saplings, including betel nut and coconut, and 77,930 forest saplings.

Officials also informed that the remaining 66,024 saplings would be distributed among the interested people very soon.

Father, son drown

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Sept 8: Father and son drowned in a railway track side ditch at Bati near Bonarpura station, on September 8.

According to report, father Abdul Kader Mandol together with his ten years old son of village Anantpur under Shaghata thana were returning home from Bonarpura Bazar.

While they were crossing railway bridge near Bati suddenly they slipped from the track and fell into the deep water and drowned the body of son was recovered next morning but the father body was not traced till felling of this report.

Businessman shot dead

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Sept 8: A businessman was shot dead by armed miscreants at Joghathi of Kotwali thana in the district while he was returning home from the nearby Saina Bazar Friday night.

According to police, miscreants attacked Mosharrar Hossain Khan and opened several rounds of fire at him causing instantaneous death. Police recovered the body and sent to Jessore General Hospital for post-mortem. None was arrested till filing of this reports Sunday noon.

Local Jatiya Party claims that the victim was a member of the district committee of JP.

Three alleged dacoits held in Magura

From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, Sept 8: Three alleged dacoits were caught red-handed with two pipe guns by the villagers of Gopinathpur under Magura sadar thana while the miscreants were attempting dacoity in house of Sribash after committing two dacoities in same village on August 25 night. Some other alleged dacoits however managed to escape, police sources said.

According to the police sources, a gang of 10 to 12 dacoits allegedly committed dacoity in two houses of Rajendra Nath and Sachindra Nath in village Gopinathpur on dead night of August 25. Then the miscreants attempted to enter into the house of Sribash for committing dacoity.

The villagers hearing the noise from the house of Sribash came out with Lathi, Sharki, Ramnadao and Dal and attacked the miscreants. Then the dacoits hid in a jute field.

The villagers geroaed the jute field and succeeded in catching hold of three dacoits with two pipe guns.



Water, water, everywhere ... Two men on a raft in search of a tubewell to collect drinking water in the floodhit areas of Pabna. There has been a serious crisis of drinking water in the affected areas. — Star photo