

News snaps

Low lying areas of Chandpur submerged

CHANDPUR, July 23: Low lying areas of Sadar thana of the district have been submerged due to incessant rain and flood water in the last few days, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the ferryghat went under knee deep water. Business centres of the district remained closed causing difficulties to trade and commerce of the business. Experts apprehended that Chandpur Irrigation Project Embankment which covers Sadar, Faridganj and Haimchar thanas and also Laxmipur district may develop breaches any time.

Miladunnabi observed in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, July 23: Eid-e-Miladunnabi was observed in the district here as elsewhere in the country on Friday last with religious fervour and festivity, reports BSS.

Various religious and socio-cultural organisations arranged elaborate programmes on this holy occasion. Madaripur Pourashava held a discussion at the pourashava mosque. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chairman, Madaripur Pourashava presided over the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Sharif Tayebur Rahman was present as chief-guest. The discussion was participated by local elite, imams, and officials.

Alleged rapist arrested

SATKHIRA, July 23: Local people handed over an alleged rapist Akhtaruzzaman of Paikara in Kaliganj thana of the district to police on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to police, Akhtar on Friday night secretly entered the house of a housewife at dead of night in absence of her husband and violated her forcibly. On the following day, the victim informed the local people of the incident. People caught him and handed him over to police. A case was filed in this connection.

Phensidyl seized

NARSINGDI, July 23: Traffic police in a drive seized phensidyl, ganja and countrymade liquor and arrested four people including two women from Bashail Raigate in the town on Dhaka-Sylhet highway on Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, traffic police sergeant Mir Golam Faruque raided the area and searched a Dhaka bound bus from Bhairab at Bashail and recovered 60 bottles of phensidyl, two bags of ganja and 20 kgs of countrymade liquor.

Police deployed at Jamalpur brothel

JAMALPUR, July 23: Police have provided tight security in red light area near Raniganj bazar in the town after Jamalpur Citizen Committee threatened to evict the inmates of the brothel, reports UNB.

According to police, more than 350 sex workers live in the brothel. But leaders of the organisation started distributing leaflets since Sunday threatening to evict them any time. District administration deployed a contingent of police in the area to ensure the security of the brothel.

Tk 3cr collected as taxes from Satkhira

SATKHIRA, July 23: The Customs authorities collected Taka three crore as taxes in Satkhira district in 1996-97 financial year, reports BSS.

An official source said, Satkhira Customs circle realised Taka three crore as VAT and other taxes from construction firms, brick fields, cinema halls, jewellery shops, residential hotels, restaurants, furniture shops and ice factories in Satkhira district. The Customs authorities realised Taka 2.70 crore as VAT and other taxes in 1995-96 financial year in the district.

Seminar on life style of char people

PATUAKHALI, July 23: A seminar on the life style of the people of the char areas of the district was held here recently, reports BSS.

Mass Line Media Centre organised the seminar. Selected journalists, human rights workers, legal practitioners, and five representatives from the char areas of greater Patuakhali region took part in the seminar. The participants of the seminar highlighted the basic problems of the people living in char areas of the region. The representatives of the people of the char areas told that many problems faced by the people living in chars, land related problem and communication problem are of severe nature.

Post-flood relief for flood victims

BANDARBAN, July 23: The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has allocated 512 metric tons of foodgrains for flood affected 16,000 families in this hill district, District Relief Officer (DRO) told BSS.

DRO Mustafa Kamal said, the 16,000 thousand distressed families in seven thanas of Bandarban Hill District will be given food aid under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme for next two months. Official sources said 12,700 dwellings in 7 thanas of this hill district were completely damaged and the number of flood-hit people is 63,700.

Two killed in road mishap in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 23: Two passengers of a bus were killed on the spot and 20 others injured, 9 of them seriously in a road mishap recently near Banaripara on Barisal-Banaripara road.

Witnesses said, a Swarupkati bound passenger bus from Barisal with nearly 35 passengers on board met the accident and fell into the roadside ditch when the driver lost its control. The deaths were identified as Siddique, 23, and Nurul Islam, 31. They were killed on the spot.

Teachers' memo to Sirajganj DC

SIRAJGANJ, July 23: High school teachers of the district on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to demand punishment of the people responsible for the killing of a headmaster in Rajganj, reports UNB.

The DC AKM Shamsuddin received the memorandum that urged the Home Minister to take necessary actions including arrest of the killers immediately. The DC assured the teachers to convey their message to the minister. Motiar Rahman, the headmaster of KC Faridpur High School in Raiganj thana was killed by some unidentified men on June 29 in 1997.

BKB loan for farmers

PIROJPUR, July 23: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has disbursed Tk 8.65 crore loan among 11,423 farmers of the district in the fiscal 1996-97 through its 21 branches, reports UNB.

Of the total amount, Tk 44.76 lakh has been distributed for aus cultivation, Tk 57.49 lakh for aman, Tk 1.99 crore for boro, Tk 1, 09,50,000 for potato and Tk 75.06 lakh for sugarcane cultivation. Besides, it disbursed Tk 1,80,20,000 among landless and marginal farmers, Tk 8.52 lakh for self-reliant projects, Tk 17.83 lakh for shrimp cultivation and Tk 6.68 lakh in women development sector.

Credit for self-employment projects up

BAGERHAT, July 23: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukdar Abdul Khaleq on Tuesday said the government has increased the amount of credit for self-employment projects to Taka 25,000 from Taka 2,500 as it has laid high emphasis on generating self-employment for the youths, reports BSS.

He said this while speaking at a function here arranged by the local administration for distributing "equipment credit" among a group of youths on completion of their training from youth development department.

Hotel boy electrocuted

THAKURGAON, July 23: A hotel boy was electrocuted recently in a restaurant while he tried to open the door of an electrified refrigerator, reports BSS.

It was learnt from the restaurant sources, that due to heavy rainfall, the wiring of the restaurant became damp and the refrigerator was electrified. The boy was shifted to the hospital immediately after his receiving the electric shock. The doctors declared him dead. An unnatural death case was recorded with Thakurgaon Police Station in this connection.

Tree fair opens in Rajshahi

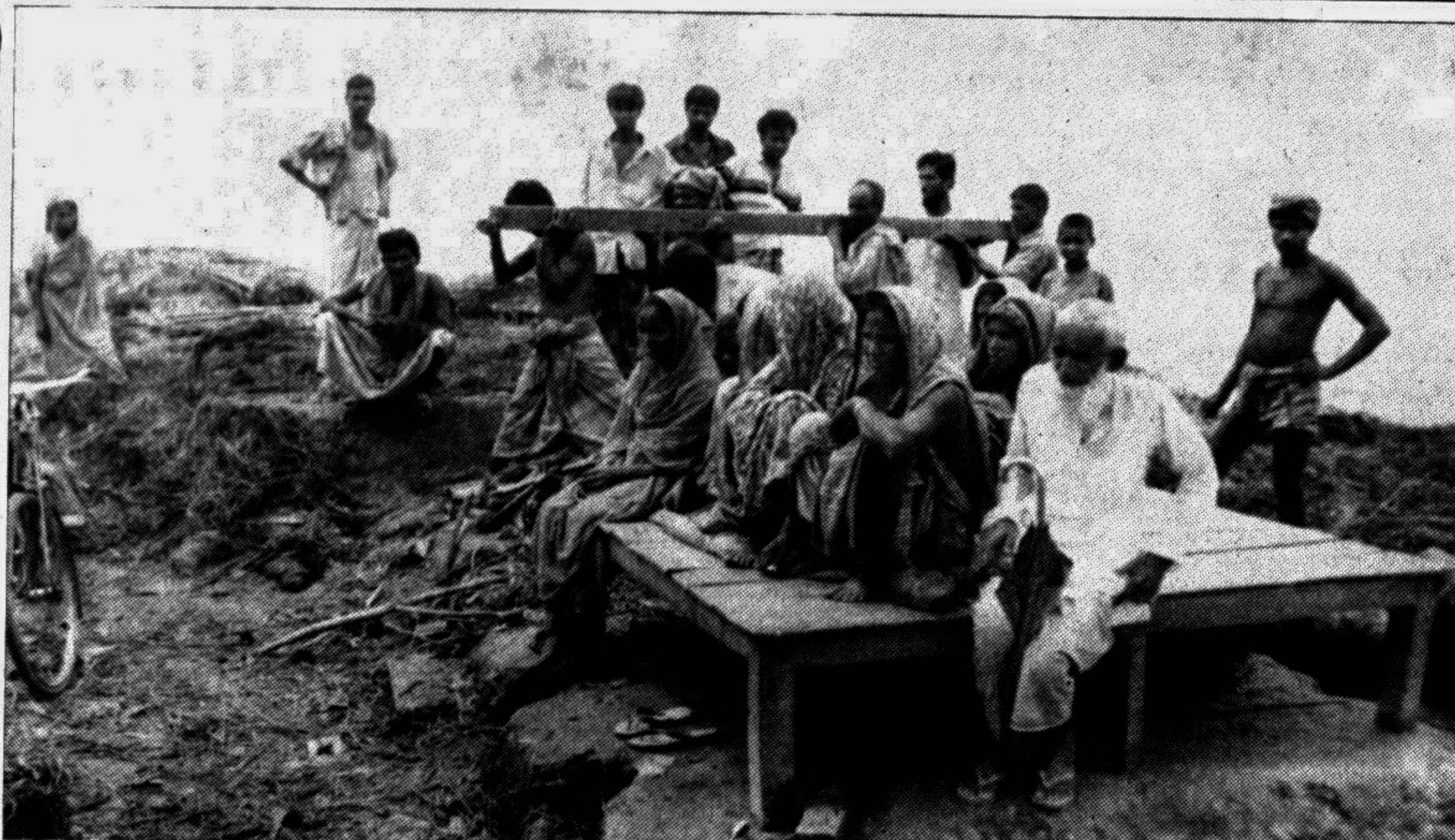
RAJSHAHI, July 23: Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury inaugurated a 10-day tree fair in the city on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Division Prof Zinnatun Nessa Talukdar was also present at the opening ceremony held at Rajshahi Stadium. The function was also addressed by chief conservator of forest SM Jalil, divisional commissioner of Rajshahi N Rejwanul Haq, deputy commissioner Kazi Farid Ahmed and division forest officer M Abdul Motalab.

Miladunnabi observed in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, July 23: The Holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi was celebrated here on Friday last with due religious fervour and festivity, reports BSS.

Different social and religious organisations arranged elaborate programmes on this occasion. The Manikganj district unit of Islamic Foundation, district administration, pourashava, zila and Manikganj sadar thana parishad jointly organised a week-long programme from July 17. The seven-day programme included inaugural function, essay and Islamic cultural competition, Imam conference, seminars, waz mahfil, book-fair and prize giving ceremony.



MUNSHIGANJ: An affected family of river erosion has taken shelter on boat. The photo was taken recently from a village under Louhajang thana in the district.

40 unions affected by flood in Moulvibazar

From Rajat Kanti Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, July 23: Flood has caused heavy damage to crops, houses, roads, culverts and flood protection embankments. The flood caused by heavy rains and onrush of upstream water coming from the Tripura hills of India badly affected vast areas of the district.

The water levels of the rivers Monu, Dhalai and Jurri suddenly rose.

It caused inundation of almost all the thanas completely or partly.

This correspondent visited some flood affected areas of Kamalgonj, Kulara and Rajnagar thanas recently.

The statistical information in this report was supported by the district flood control cell set up at Moulvibazar.

All the six thanas of the district were over flooded in last week. Kamalgonj thana was worsty affected by the flood of the river Dhalai.

A total of 40 unions, out of 67 of the district went under flood water till July 13. Out of this, 7 unions were badly affected and another 33 unions were partly affected. The affected unions were 9.

Out of those five unions were completely and 4 partly submerged in Kamalgonj thana. One union was completely affected and 4 unions partly affected in Kulara thana, 9 unions were partly affected in Srimongal thana, one union was completely affected and 2 unions partly in Rajnagar thana, 2 unions were partly affected in Baralekha thana and 12 unions were partly affected in sadar thana.

More than two lakh people were marooned in the district. The number of flood affected families are 23,800. According to the district flood control cell, 90,000 people of 1,035 families were affected in Kamalgonj thana, 70,000 people of 15,000 families were affected in Kulara thana, 8,500 people of 1,530 families were affected in Srimongal thana, 18,000 people of 3,000 families were affected in Rajnagar thana, 12,045 people of 2,735 families were affected in Baralekha thana and 2,500 people of 500 families were affected in the sadar thana.

743 Square Kilometer (SKM) areas of above mentioned unions were affected by this flood. Of this, 280 SKM areas in Kamalgonj thana, 200 SKM areas in Kulara thana, 100 SKM areas in Srimongal thana, 30 SKM areas in Rajnagar thana, 38 SKM areas in Baralekha thana, and 100 SKM areas were submerged in the Sadar thana.

113155 houses have been damaged completely or partially in the district. Out of this 9,490 houses completely and

91,852 partially damaged in Kamalgonj thana, 1000 completely and 7000 partially damaged in Kulara thana, 72 houses completely damaged and 880 partially damaged in Srimongal thana, 365 completely damaged and 1265 partially damaged in Rajnagar thana, 76 completely damaged and 115 partially damaged in Baralekha thana and 600 houses completely damaged and 440 houses partially damaged in the Sadar thana.

The flood destroyed crops on 38,151 acres of land completely or partly. Out of this 12,972 acres in Kamalgonj thana, 8,632 acres in Kulara thana, 5987 acres in Srimongal thana, 5683 acres in Rajnagar thana and 4,308 acres to crop land were destroyed in the Sadar thana.

A total of 110 bridges and culverts were also damaged by the flood water. Out of these, 20 bridges and culverts were damaged in Kamalgonj, 5 in Kulara, 65 in Srimongal, and 10 each in Rajnagar and Baralekha thana. Besides this, 212 kilometre roads were damaged completely or partly. Out of this 51 kilometre in Kamalgonj, 23 kilometre in Kulara, 24 kilometre in Srimongal, 74 kilometre in Baralekha and 40 kilometre roads in the Sadar thana.

A total of 87 different educational institutions like primary schools, High Schools and Madrasahs were also affected completely or partly. Out of these institutes, 50 in Kamalgonj thana, 8 in Kulara thana, 4 in Srimongal thana, 11 in Rajnagar thana and 14 educational institutes were damaged in the Sadar thana.

BRDB credit for jobless people

RAJBARI, July 23: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has taken up a programme to disburse Tk 3 crore credit among the landless and unemployed people of the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The loan will be given for various sectors including small business, crop cultivation, pisciculture, rice husking, poultry and cattle raising, grape farming, food processing, rural transport, small and cottage industries including pottery.

Besides, the BRDB will give skill development training on various subjects among 8,000 rural female and male members of four thanas of the district during the current fiscal year. The Board will also plant saplings on 44 kilometres of road and 1.75 lakh saplings at the homesteads for environmental protection.

In the last fiscal year, the BRDB imparted training to 10,000 male and female mem-

bers of Rajbari district and Tk 2.67 crore loan was disbursed among about 6,000 male and female members.

This rural small credit created income generation among unemployed men and women.

Another report adds: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has disbursed Tk 9.18 crore as agricultural credit in the district during the last one year.

The loans were distributed among 9,826 farmers through 16 branches of the bank of Sadar, Pangsha, Goaland and Balakandi thanas.

Of these, Tk 6.26 crore was given as crop loan, Tk 1.14 crore among the landless people, Tk 30 lakh for dairy farming, cattle purchase and cow fattening while the rest Tk 1.48 crore loan was disbursed in other sectors.

Besides, the bank during the period realised outstanding loan of Tk 9.15 crore from 8,461 farmers of the district.

Founding Day of Kachi Kancher Mela celebrated

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 23: The 40th founding anniversary of Chandpur Ankur Kachi Kancher Mela, an organization of Central Kachi Kancher Mela of Dhaka was celebrated here recently in a befitting manner.

A discussion meeting was held at Chandpur town hall with Prof Md Hossain Khan in the chair. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Rokuzzaman Khan (Dadabhai) Director, Central Kachi Kancher Mela, Hashem Khan, an eminent artist, Md Khaled Anwar, DC, Chandpur, A K M Shamsul Alam, A D C, A K M Mujibur Rahman.

Dadabhai distributed prizes among the winners of the literary and cultural competitions. After prize giving ceremony a colourful cultural function was organized by the children of the organization.

12 leaders of various parties join AL

NETRAKONA, July 23: A total of 12 leaders of front organisations of different political parties including BNP, Jatiya Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal - formally joined Awami League at a public meeting held on Monday at Kumri Bazar under Netrakona sadar thana, reports BSS.

A press release of Awami League, Netrakona district unit said local Parliament Member Fazlur Rahman Khan attended the public meeting as chief guest while president of Awami League Rouha Union unit Iqbal Ahsan Tapu presided over the meeting. It was addressed, among others, by the district committee member of Awami League Nur Khan Mitu, president of Jubo League, Netrakona district Sanwar Hussain Bhuiyan and general secretary of Jubo League, Netrakona district unit Nur Islam.

Welcoming the newly joined leaders at the meeting venue Khan said the present government under the dynamic leadership Sheikh Hasina was putting in its best efforts to offer a better life to the people in our country.

One electrocuted in Barguna

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 23: One person was electrocuted at Kron village under Barguna district Sunday evening, witness said.

The victim was identified as Sawkat Hossain Biplob, 23, who came home on leave from his place of work at the Army's EME workshop at Chittagong.

He was electrocuted while trying to save two children from touching a live electric wire near his house.

Faridpur Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 23: World Population Day was observed here as elsewhere in the country in a befitting manner.

A colourful rally headed by Deputy Commissioner AFM Abdul Haq Chowdhury paraded the town with posters and festoons on the occasion.

A seminar on 'Tarunna Projanan Shastha' was held at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall with Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Abul Hossain in the chair.

The key-note speech was delivered by Prof Md Shahjahan, Vice Principal of Government Saroda Sundari Mahila College. Advocate Abdur Razzaque and Akramuddin Ahmed, President and Deputy Director respectively of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Faridpur district unit and Munshi Harun-or-Rashid, President of Faridpur Press Club took part in the discussion.

Attack on UP chairman

Fazlul Huq Fazal, Chairman of Gazirtek Union Parishad (UP) under Char Bhadrans thana and his brother Absaruddin were seriously injured by the attack of some assailants with sharp weapons near their house recently.

They were immediately admitted to Faridpur General Hospital. Then they were again shifted to Dhaka PG Hospital in a critical condition.

It was learnt, some miscreants laid ambush with sharp weapons and fell upon the two brothers as a sequel to previous enmity.

The miscreants indiscriminately inflicted injuries on the persons of the two brothers. They fled away leaving them critically injured.

Musallis' procession

The musallis brought out a procession here after Jumma prayers in protest against the publication of objectionable posters casting slurs on the character of holy Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) in Jerusalem recently.

The processionists said that the posters seriously wounded the feelings of the Muslims. They urged the Muslim Ummah to get united to resist the conspiracy being hatched to undermine the Prophet as well as Islam with an ulterior motive.

Boalmari College office ransacked

The office of Boalmari Government College was ransacked by a group of students recently.

It was learnt that in absence of the Principal, Vice Principal of the college passed verbal order not to allow any degree examination candidate to fill in examination entry form without clearing all dues to the college.

lege. This exasperated the defaulter who went on rampage destroying some valuable papers and furnitures of the college.

However, the situation was brought under control at the intervention of teachers and students of the college.

Housewife commits suicide

Rasheda, 18, a housewife committed suicide by hanging recently.

It is learnt from the family sources that Rasheda, wife of Jamirul of Naruya under Balakandi thana committed suicide as a sequel to family feud. Her dead body was reportedly hurriedly buried without autopsy.

On the other hand her husband being overwhelmed with grief at the death of his wife tried to hang himself to death in their cowshed on the same day. But his family members rescued him in a critical condition. He was immediately rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where he has been fighting for life.

Theft of motor bikes on rise

Motor-cycle lifting in and around the town has alarmingly increased. The motor-cycle owners have become panic-stricken due to this menace.

Four motor-cycles were stolen from the town in three months. In the first week of July the motor cycle of Mijanur Rahman, Banglar Bani correspondent of Sadarpur thana was stolen below the stairs of his residence at Goalchamot in the town.

He lodged a case with Kotwali thana in this connection. Police reportedly failed to recover any stolen motor-cycles.

Lightning claims one life

One person was killed by lightning at Chhata Danga under Sharna union in Bhanga thana of the district recently.

According to local sources, the victim identified as Jahed, 30, was struck by thunderbolt while returning from field during heavy shower. He hailed from Pangsha thana in Rajbari district.

Hemp recovered

Faridpur district narcotics department with the help of police of Bhanga thana raided three houses under the same thana recently.

They recovered 31 live hemp plants and a huge quantity of processed hemp from there.

Three separate cases were lodged with Bhanga thana in this connection.

Alleged corruption in LSD godowns

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 23: A huge quantity of foodgrain worth over Taka five crore were misappropriated from five LSD godowns of the Food Department in Nilphamari district since 1980 up to 1995.

The misappropriation was detected by the audit teams which held the inspections and necessary audits in five LSD godowns of the Food Department in the district and directed the LSD officials concerned to re-pay the price of the misappropriated foodgrains worth Taka 5 crore. But the order of the audit teams were not yet been materialised. The Food Department officials have been maintaining silence over it for reasons best known to the authorities concerned.

Of these five LSD godowns, foodgrains worth over Taka one crore and 71 lakh were misappropriated from Domar LSD,

one crore and 64 lakh taka foodgrains from Jaldhaka LSD, one crore and 43 lakh taka foodgrain from Dimla LSD, about 41 lakh taka foodgrain from Kaimary LSD and 22 lakh taka foodgrains from Kishoreganj LSD.

The audit report said that the LSD officials served under these food godowns had misappropriated so huge foodgrains by showing false despatches to different food godowns since 1980.

But it is surprising that the higher authorities of the Food Department are yet to execute the instructions of the audit teams, it has been alleged.

An official of the Food Department said on condition of anonymity that a large number food officials were involved in the scandal. So nobody is showing interest to bring the culprits to book.

Cash, valuables worth Tk 1.8 lakh looted in Meherpur

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, July 23: A dacoity was committed in the staff quarters of Meherpur Sadar Thana Parishad recently.

The victims are two female officers.

Family sources said that on July 15 night a gang of masked armed dacoits numbering 8 forced their entry into the sadar thana staff quarter situated at Courtpara. They broke open the door of the house of Sabnam Momotaz, Thana Family Planning Officer and at gun-point looted Taka 9 thousand in cash, one the VCP and gold ornaments. Then the dacoits entered into the house of Shahanaawaz Begum, Thana Women Affairs Officer and at gun point looted Taka 13 thousand in cash, one VCP and gold ornaments worth Taka over one lakh. They escaped safely. Before their departure they snapped the electric line of the quarter.

It may be mentioned that the staff quarters are located in protected areas and adequate protected measure are taken there by keeping night guards.

Two separate cases were filed with Meherpur Sadar Police Station in this connection.

Kushtia-Rajbari road link restored

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 23: With the resumption of ferry service over the river Goral near Gorai Railway Bridge road communication between Kushtia and Rajbari has been restored. The Goral river lost its navigation due to unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by India through Farakka Barrage. As a result river communication remained suspended during lean period and people crossed the river on foot.

Meanwhile, construction of Kushtia-Rajbari road has been completed. The Roads and Highways Department constructed a bally bridge over the river Goral facilitating easy plying of buses and trucks during the lean period. With the construction of this road distance between Kushtia and Daulatdia ghat has been reduced from one hundred miles to only 55 miles.

A private car driver told this correspondent that with the opening of Kushtia-Rajbari road the distance between Kushtia and Dhaka has become only 110 miles instead of 155 miles.



MANIKGANJ: A vast tract of land under Nesarganj union of Harirampur thana in the district has been devoured by river. Now the villagers of the affected union living under open sky.