News snaps

Vast tracts of land inundated in S-dists

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 9 A vast tract of crop, shoal lands along the riversides and low lying areas have been inundated due to incessant rainfall and onrush of flood water in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola. Barguna. Jhalakati and Pirojpur districts under Barisal division on Tuesday.

Offshore islands of Monpura, Charkukri Mukri, Dhalchar and other islands of Bhola are being threatened by heavy flood water. A huge area of these islands has already been submerged. Due to depression over the Bay the sea is very rough with 8 to 10 ft. high waves. Several hundreds of fishing trawlers took shelter in the Mahipur-Alipur canal some 5 kilometres away from the

6 murderers get life term

SYLHET. Aug 9: A court here recently sentenced six people to life imprisonment for killing a man in Biswanath thana of the

district about eight years back, reports UNB.

They were also fined Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer another six months in prison. The Additional District and Sessions Judge gave the verdict against Ibrahim Ali, Mizanur Rahman alias Selim, Babr Miah, Badsha Miah, Lutfur Rahman and Aftab Ali. The judge acquitted five other charge-sheeted ac-cused — Siraj Ali. Moskandar Ali, Benu Lal Das, Mohammad Tayab Ali and Nur Ali. According to the prosecution, the accused, armed with lethal weapons, had attacked Ayub Ali following previous enmity on March 12, 1989. Seriously injured Ayub Ali later died in a hospital.

Fish trader killed

KHULNA, Aug 9: A young fish trader was killed by some unidentified armed miscreants at Bagmara area in the city on Monday night, police said, reports UNB.

A gang of miscreants took Ali Hossain of Muslimpara area in the city to Bagmara area and shot him dead on the spot at 9.30 pm. Police recovered the body from the spot and sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Kotwali police but nobody was arrested.

Strike by newspaper hawkers

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 9: Newspaper Hawkers' Union here on Tuesday enforced an indefinite strike, disrupting distribution of national and local newspapers in the district, reports UNB. Responding to the call of newsmen, the hawkers union stopped the newspaper distribution, protesting illegal occupation of the district Press Club by "terrorists backed by identified

vested quarters." Local newsmen went for a work stoppage to

Judges facing transport problem

register their protest against the incident.

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: Judges of the district judge court are facing transport problem as two microbuses allotted for them are out of order for the last two weeks, reports UNB.

Court sources said the two vehicles for 25 judges went out of order due to technical faults. No step has been taken to repair those despite repeated request to concerned department. Most of the judges reside in hilltop houses in the port city and it is difficult for them to come to the court building without transport.

Villagers' clash leaves 17 hurt

GAIBANDHA, Aug 9: At least 17 people were injured in a clash between two groups of people over a trifling matter in Gobindaganj thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash took place at Shyampur-Parbatipur village at 10 am following an altercation involving a goat destroying fruit plants in the private orchard of a villager. The altercation between supporters of the goat owner and the orchard owner developed into a violent clash. The 17 injured who included women have been treated in the Thana Health Complex.

Sunflower farmers need patronisation

BARGUNA, Aug 9: Despite potentials to produce sunflower in southern districts, there is no initiative to expand cultivation of the prospective variety of oil seed, reports UNB.

When farmers are of the opinion that they would be benefited by growing sunflower, experts said the growers in fact have little knowledge about its production and benefits. But the farmers alleged that they were being deprived of necessary training and patronisation to go for a large sale production of sunflower on commercial basis. The sunflower can be produced anywhere in and around one's home as well as on arable lands, particularly during the rabi season.

One killed in Satkhira road mishap

SATKHIRA, Aug 9: One person was killed and another seriously injured in a road accident near at village Sekenda under Debuta thana on Satkhira-Kaliganj road on Saturday last, reports BSS

Police and hospital source said, a Satkhira bound mini-bus from Kaliganj dashed against an electric post when its driver

lost control of the vehicle. Two helpers, Moznu and Mintu of the bus were injured seri-

ously. Moznu died on way to Satkhira Sadar Hospital and Mintu was sent to the Khulna Hospital in a critical condition. Debhata police seized the minibus, but the driver managed to

Teenaged girl violated

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: Banshkhali police on Monday registered a case in which it was alleged that a teenaged girl was violated by a youngman at village Ilisha of the thana on July 23. reports UNB.

Police said the victim's mother, Rabeya Khatun, alleged that her 13-year-old daughter was raped by co-villager Rashid Ahmed, son of Fulla Mia on the night of July 23. As the cause for delayed filing of the case, Rabeya, the widow of late Samad Mia, said she was threatened not to disclose the incident and was forced to stay in the house.

Valuables worth Tk one lakh looted

SYLHET, Aug 9: Robbers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk one lakh from a house in the town on Sunday, eye witnesses said, reports UNB.

A gang of robbers broke into the residence at Upashahar area here in absence of the house-master and looted Tk 15,000 and some valuables, including eight tolas of gold ornaments. from the inmates, all of them females, at gun point at 1 pm. However, nobody was wounded. The dacoits decamped with the booties unchallenged and later, police officials visited the spot. The master of the house, Abdul Jalil, filed a case with Kotwali police.

Discussion on technical edn

GAIBANDHA, Aug 9: A discussion on the significance of science and technical education was held recently at Gaibandha Government Boys' High School premises, reports BSS,

Prof Abdul Hamid, Principal, Gaibandha Government College presided over the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner, Sharafuddin Ahmed was present as the chief guest. District Education Officer Madan Mohon Talukdar and Headmaster, Government High School Shah Shamsul Alam, among others, took part in the discussion.

Sanction for installation of tubewells BARISAL, Aug 9: The government sanctioned Tk 18.58 crore

for installation of different types of tubewells and tara pumps at different places of 11 southern districts under three divisions of Barisal circle in 1996-97 fiscal year, reports BSS. The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur,

Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari and Gopalgonj.



BARISAL: Morning scene at Kuakata sea beach. — Star photo

Khas lands being grabbed in Jessore

Alleged corruption in Revenue Deptt

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Aug 9: An unhealthy competition of grabbing khas lands has been reported in a beel situated under two thanas of greater Jessore district recently.

Alleged corruption by the local Revenue Department has triggered this situation.

The land grabbers have been filing cases and counter cases to establish their right and title. According to sources, all the

khas lands under 'Dobeel' are still in possession of these groups despite rejection of their cases by the court.

They filed cases in local civil court against the government to win a decision in their favour. But the court decisions went against them. This decision was given by the court when the

deeds and documents, submit-

ted in the court in support of

their ownership, were found totally false and fabricated. All deeds and documents in connection with the cases were

allegedly manufactured locally by professional forgers. The illegal possessors of land have collected DCR from

foul means. It may be noted here, the DCR bears no value in the court

local Revenue Office through

It has been proved beyond any reasonable doubts that all these khas lands have been grabbed in connivance with the Revenue Department. According to another source,

900 bighas of land arising out of this beel have been grabbed for cultivation. Dobeel, comprising nearly 1.000 acres of water area, has

been reduced due to continued drought and sitting up. Besides these 900 bighas of land a segment of the total beel

area was brought under cultiva-

Best teachers

awarded

culture and Food Minister Be-

gum Matia Choudhury has

called upon all concerned to co-

operate with the government

for successful implementation

of the programmes of the gov-

ernment in the education sec-

She was speaking as chief

guest on Thursday at the closing

function of National Education

Week-07 at Mymensingh Zila

Commissioner Muhammad

Rafigul Islam, the function was

addressed among others by Prof

ARM Shamsul Islam, Prof.

Mukarram Hussain, Rehana

Choudhury, Prof Jatin Sarker.

Amir Ahmed Chowdhury and

tributed prizes and certificates

among the best teachers, best

educational institutions and

winners of literary and cultural

Rahman, Principal of Ananda

Mohan College, Shamsul Huda,

Headmaster, Mymensingh Zila

School and Moulana Helalur

Rahman, Principal Bhabanipur

Senior Madrasha have been se-

lected as best teacher of the col-

leges, secondary schools and

madrashas respectively in the

Madhabpur now

a pourasava

habpur thana headquarters

turned into a pourasava cover-

ing a five-and-half-kilometre

area and 18,000 residents, re-

Kibria on Saturday formally in-

augurated the new municipal-

occasion at Madhabpur Thana

Parishad premises, the Finance

Minister announced a grant of

Tk 50 lakh for the newly set-up

crore would be spent for imple-

menting a project for drinking

water supply to the pourasava

and another Tk 3 crore for in-

mul Haq Mostafa Shahid, Abu

Lais Mohammad Mobin

Chowdhury and Hosne Ara

Wahid, Habiganj pourasava chairman Shahid Chowdhury,

district Awami League secretary

Dr Mushifiq Hossain Chowd-

hury also addressed the func-

Abducted

person still

untraced

From Our Correspondent

rorists recently abducted one

person and demanded ransom

22 the victim, Shamsul Alam,

26, son of Monsur Ali of village

Adabaria under Daulatpur

thana went to Khalishakundi to

take the sale proceeds of tobacco from a businessman. Then a

group of armed terrorists

abducted him along with the victim's friend Akkae Ali and

kept them confined. Akkas Ali

managed to escape, but Sham-

sul Alam is still under their

60 thousand from his guardians

as ransom. The victim's friends

informed the matter to Daulat-

pur thana police but the police

administration allegedly did

not take any action for release

of the victim. His whereabout is

Terrorists demanded Taka

of Taka 60 thousand.

custody.

still untraced

KUSHTIA, Aug 9: Armed ter-

It has been reported, on July

tion.

Parliament members Ena-

Besides, Kibria said Tk 2.50

local government body.

creasing civic amenities.

Finance Minister Shah AMS

Addressing a function on the

HABIGANJ, Aug 9: Mad-

This year Prof Majibur

competitions of students.

Later the minister dis-

Presided over by Deputy

tor, reports BSS.

School premises.

Abdul Karim.

district.

ports UNB.

MYMENSINGH, Aug 9: Agri-

tion after the Liberation War. A group of persons are reportedly in possession of the land and enjoying the ownership.

Village Naoda

880

808

According to revenue office sources, any plot of land arising from water area and becoming for cultivable can not be treated as agriculture land until its character is changed.

The office sources further told that these are certain formalities to change the character of land.

The source further said that acting on the report from local Tahasil office, district kanonguha or surveyor would go to the spot and verify it physically for reporting to Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commission, on receipt of the report, will give directives to Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Revenue to process and finalise the matter under

intimation to him.

Thana Chougachha, Dist: Jessore

Partial map of

Dobeel Khash land

So bill completion of the process, the character of such land cannot be officially changed and accepted in the eye of law.

Thana Moheshpur, Dist: Jessore

Ajampur Syedpur

Dobeel is now a closed beel. It is surrounded by villages namely Kandbila, Mangipara. Hogoldanga, Borokhanpur of Chougachha thana and Biddudharpur, Nowdagram, Balivadrapur, Azampur, Syedpur of Mohespur thana in greater Jes-

The ownership of Dobeel was transferred to the erstwhile government of Pakistan during the partition of India in 1947. Originally it was the property of Hindu Zaminders. They left the country before the partition leaving the property unclaimed.

The beel is still khas to the government and remains recorded in Volume No. I.

A source of local District Fisheries Office told that Dobeel has been selected for inclusion in the acquacultural

Dobeel area, this correspondent Ahmed,

development project. Accordingly the work is supposed to begin from the coming fiscal. During a recent visit to the

met with a number of opinion leaders including Sofiuddin a teacher of Hogoldanga Non-government Primary School, a social worker Bazlur Rahman Khan, ex-union member Abdul Malik of Kandbila. They demanded distribution of the khas lands under the beel among local landless and land-poor peasants either individually or by forming a co-operative society This will help rehabilitate the landless and land-poor. This will also ensure poverty alleviation in rural Bangladesh.

SRIMANGAL: The main gas well at Magurchhara has now turned into a big pond - Star photo by Anisur Rahman

HSC section in Kushtia Varsity College closed

Hartal observed in Kushtia From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA. Aug 9: Sammilito Chhatra Sangram Parishad, a forum of different student organisations observed hartal in the town on Wednesday.

The parishad observed hartal in protesting the government decision of closure in admission to Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) classes in Kushtia Government University College recently.

The protesters demanded immediate withdrawal of the government decision. The decision has frustrated

the students and guardians particularly meritorious students of poor families.

It may be mentioned, admission of students into Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) classes in 16 colleges, where honours and masters courses are being taught, has been suspended, following a decision taken by the Ministry of Educa-

The closure of higher secondary section in Kushtia College sparked a sharp reaction among the guardians and students. A total of 1200 students who passed the SSC Examinations this year from different

Young man shot at in Jhenidah From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 9: A young man received bullet injuries when two rival groups exchanged fire at village Dudsha under Sailkupa thana in the district night, according to police sources.

Police said the activists of two rival out lawed parties exchanged about 20 rounds of fire. The victims, Ariful Islam, 26, of the same village sustained

bullet injuries when he came out of his house during the shootout.

schools of Kushtia and adjoining areas would be deprived of higher education.

The staff council of Kushtia College held a meeting and requested the government to revise its decision. There is no other government college excepting a women's college. The private colleges in

Kushtia town cannot provide better education. These colleges are facing acute shortage of teachers and laboratory equipments. The educational environment in these colleges are far from satisfactory, the guardians commented.

Kushtia Government College is one of the best colleges in the region. Every year a good number of students secure top positions in the merit list of Jessore Education Board. Last year 11 students secured top positions in the merit list of Jessore Board from Kushtia Government College.



CHANDPUR: J P Fronk, Development Assistance Minister of the Netherlands recently visited ICDDR,B Hospital at Matlab in the district. - Star photo

Chandpur Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 9: The Chittagong divisional revenue conference was held recently at Chandpur Circuit House.

Alhaj Mosharaf Hossain, State Minister for Land attended the conference as the chief guest. The meeting was presided over by Sayed Magrub Morshed, Secretary, Land Ministry. It was addressed, among others, by Md Sakhawat Hossain, Divisional Commissioner, Md Khalid Anwar, DC, Chandpur, Md Habibullah (DC), Chittagong, Nasreen Akter, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Chandpur.

All DC, ADC (Revenue), AC, Land and Kanungo of Chittagong division attended the conference.

It is stated in the meeting that an additional Taka four crore were realised as revenue in Chittagong division during the last financial year.

Netherlands minister visits ICDDR.B Hospital

Netherlands Development Assistance Minister J P Fronk along with Netherlands Ambassador in Bangladesh R Bornish recently visited Matlab ICDDR,B Hospital. The minister went around different wards of the hospital and expressed his satisfaction observing the working atmosphere of the

Later, he also visited erosion affected areas of Chandpur

Nutrition advocacy workshop

One-day nutrition advocacy workshop was held here recently. It was sponsored by Bangladesh Nutrition Association.

In this connection a meeting was held at Chandpur Rotary Club. The meeting was presided over by Md Khalid Anwar, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Chandpur. The meeting was addressed.

among others, by AK Shahidul Haque, SP, Chandpur, AKM Shahidul Haque, Md Yusuf Gazi, Chairman, Chandpur Pourashava, Dr Makbul Ahmed.

Diarrhoea claims five lives Five persons died and about

5,000 were attacked with diarrhoea in different parts of the district during the fast month. The badly affected thanas

are: Chandpur, Faridganj, Ma-

tlab, Haimchar and Kachua. About 100 diarrhoea patients are being admitted in Matlab ICDDR,B Hospital daily. According to Civil Surgeon's office sources, 60 medical teams are working in the affected ar-

Demarcation confce held

Inter-districts demarcation conference was held at Chandpur recently. Officials from Chandpur,

Noakhali, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barisal, Laxmipur attended the conference. The conference was presided over by Md Khalid Anwar, Deputy Commissioner (DC),

and Survey Directorate attended the conference as the chief guest. **Education Week**

Education Week '97 was ob-

ting manner. Chandpur Government College, Rudhir Chandra Mazumder of Lady Dehlavi High School, Md Safiullah Mia of Rampur Madrassa were rewarded as the best teachers in college, school and madrassa level respec-

Chandpur Government College, Puranbazar M H High School, Matripith Government Girls' High School were selected as the best educational institutions.

Reception to meritorious students

Matripith Government Girls' premises.

medals. In this connection a meeting was held with Sha-

Discussion meeting A meeting of the guardians and students was recently held

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Md Khalid Anwar, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Prof Waliullah, Prof Ismail Tofader, Jahirul Islam

problems, he suggested.

Jute growers deprived

By Staff Correspondent

Jute growers are in utter despair following low price of their produce in local markets. Our Gaibandha Correspondent says: Jute growers of Gaibandha district are perplexed with jute as the market price of the item continued to

This season the buyers in general are showing poor interest in procuring jute. As such the market price of jute has been falling gradually in rural

fall in rural markets.

According to present market rate, jute is being sold as follows: Tossa at Tk 200 to 210 and local variety Tk 100 to 120 per maund. The farmers, instead of processing fibre from jute plants, are drying up the plants for using as fire stick out of frustration.

The government handed over 10 jute purchasing centres in Gaibandha to private ownership. Those centres of different agencies are yet to start procurement of raw jute. The middlemen and petty jute traders, however, are purchasing poor quantity of raw jute from village markets as per their sweet will. In many places they procure local variety of jute at Tk 90 to Tk 100.

They are showing poor interest in procuring jute. The wholesale traders did not procure jute as the government did not declare rate of jute price in this current season. Moreover. they have become hopeless witnessing the bleak future of jute.

Farmers are hard hit by jute cultivation as they could not realise the production cost of

This year farmers of the district cultivated jute on a vast tract of land. According to district Agriculture Extension Department, this season a total of

3 hurt as they jump from roof of mail train

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 9: Three people were injured as they umped from the roof of a mail train near Raipur railway crossing of the district reports UNB.

The injured Panu, Jamaluddin and Kasimuddin were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Chandpur, Md Shaffuddin, Director General, Land Records

observed

served here recently in a befit-Principal Bazlul Haque of

Six meritorious students of

High School who secured places in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination under Comilla Board were recently awarded reception at the school They were awarded gold

mima Anwar as the chief guest. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Hosney Ara Mazid, Headmistress, Prof Nurul Islam and Kazi Abid Hossain.

here. It was organised by Bangladesh Mentally Retarded Association, Chandpur unit.

Mamun and Mujibur Rahman. The chief guest was Md Khalid Anwar. He urged the people to take special care to mentally retarded people. People should be aware about the mentally retarded people's

again

7.200 hectares of land was brought under intensive jute cultivation programme. Apprehending further fall in jute price, growers are selling

jute plants hurriedly from their field at a nominal price, it is Besides, 10 jute purchasing

centres of different agencies in the district have been sold out to private owners without clearing off their outstanding bills amounting to Taka two and a half crore to the growers. Our Faridpur Correspondent

adds: Jute growers in the district are anxious with their jute. They are taking their jute to different markets and are compelled to bring it back home. Because there are no purchasers in the markets. In some markets middlemen purchase jute at a price much less than the production cost. Jute is being sold in some markets at Tk 250 to Tk 280 per maund, according

to their varieties.

Some jute growers when contacted said that the production cost of a maund of jute varies from Taka 300 to Taka 350, but they have to sell it at Taka 250 to Tk 280 now.

The growers alleged that if

government purchases jute through different agencies by fixing its price, they would be They also said that they

would be compelled to stop jute production if government does not set up purchasing centres at important jute markets. So, the government should take necessary measures to re-

move despondency prevailing among the jute growers by purchasing jute. Young man commits

suicide jumping

onto running train NILPHAMARI, Aug 9: A young man allegedly committed suicide jumping onto a running train on Nilphamari-Rajshahi Railway, one km off the town

The victim was identified as Ranjan Kumar Kundo, 30, son of Bhola Kundo of New Babupara area in the town. The incident occurred at about 6 am.

today, reports UNB.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A UD case was filed.