News snaps

Jute seeds distributed among growers

RANGPUR, July 11: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) distributed 126 tonnes of High Yielding Variety (HYV) jute seeds among the growers in five districts of Rangpur zone in the current season, a BADC source said, reports

The districts include Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Kurigram. The jute seeds were of tossa and local varieties. The seeds were sold to the farmers through 13 sale centres and 102 dealers of BADC at fair prices.

10,000 hectares of land lying uncultivated

SHERPUR, July 11: Some 10,000 hectares of land in three thanas of the district have been lying uncultivated for want of

irrigation facilities, reports UNB.

Farmers said irrigation crisis in the three thanas - Jhinaigati, Nalitabari and Sribordi - worsened as the sluice-gate of Moharashi river remained inoperative for a long time. During the dry season, the irrigation problem reaches the peak as deep tubewells of the area cannot pump out water due to abnormal fall in underground water level. They said in most places new deep tubewells cannot be installed due to excessive underground stones. Besides, the farmers fall victim to flood during the monsoon because of onrush of water from the nearby hills.

Old-age allowance distributed

JAMALPUR, July 11: State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf launched old-age allowance programme at Islampur thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

it will be further expanded in future. Rashed Mosharraf sought

cooperation of the people for successful implementation of the

Speaking on the occasion at the thana auditorium, the State Minister said the present government is pledge-bound to work for the welfare of people. Terming the programme as an epoch-making welfare oriented step of the present government, he said

programme. Later, the Minister distributed allowances among local poor old people.

Plant fair begins

TANGAIL, July 11: A five-day long plant fair organised by the Forest Department began on Wednesday at Shahid Smriti Paura Udyan here, reports BSS.

Abdul Mannan, MP, inaugurated the fair as the chief guest of the function. Among others Divisional Forest Officer Biswas A Noor and Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer A M Nasirul Kamal spoke on the occasion. A Quayum presided over the function. Twenty-seven government and non-government organisations and private nurseries have been participating in the fair.

Training course on fodder cultivation

NARSINGDI, July 11: A week-long training course on modern system of fodder cultivation sponsored by the Livestock Department concluded on Wednesday at Monohordi Thana Live Stock Office, reports BSS.

A total of 30 farmers of the thana took part in the training. District livestock officer and Monohardi thana livestock officer conducted the training course. The farmers were imparted training on modern method of cultivation of high yielding varieties of grass.

CHTDB organised workshop held

RANGAMATI, July 11: A workshop on 'role of public representatives in implementation of projects', was held on Monday at Rangamati sadar thana of the district, reports BSS.

Organised by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) the workshop are being held in all the thana headquarters of the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban in order to associate the public representatives for successful implementation UNICEF-aided projects in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Tara Charan Chakma, vice-chairman of the CHTDB inaugurated the workshop in Rangamati sadar thana auditorium as the chief guest. 120 persons including chairmen of union parishads, headmen and karbaris participated in the workshop. Ekramul Haque, Thana Nirbahi Officer, Rangamati sadar presided over the workshop.

Housewife gangraped

MADARIPUR, July 11: A housewife was gangraped by six miscreants at a village in Kalkini thana here, police said, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, when the victim, 23, went to a nearby field to collect snails at noon on June 20 the miscreants identified as Saidul Bepary, Dilip Bepary, Shahab Uddin Hawladar, Babul Bepary, Jahur and Farid forcibly took her to a nearby sugarcane field and violated her one after another. She was recovered by the villagers in a critical condition. A case was field against the miscreants with the police.

Heroin addicted labour leader dies

JHENIDAH, July 11: A local leader died after smoking excessive heroin at Arappurin in the town recently, reports UNB. Family sources said Abul Kashem, 38, the leader of Motor Sramik Union, was rushed to Sadar Hospital where he died after sometime. A UD case was field with the police. Another report says: A senseless little boy was recovered from a jungle at Parbatipur in Harinakunda thana in profusely bleeding condition. Family sources said the victim Shamim, 11, son of Babul, was called out by his neighbour homosexual Milon. He took him to the jungle and left him in a pool of blood after violating him mercilessly. He was rushed to the Thana Health Complex from where he was shifted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed with the police.

Number of drug addicts on rise

NOAKHALI, July 11: The number of drug addicted people is increasing alarmingly posing threat to the law and order situation in the district, reports UNB.

Most of the addicted are youths and they are increasingly being involved in hijacking, looting and other anti-social activities to manage money for buying the drugs. It is learnt that failure in love, unemployment, frustration, family unrest are the main reasons behind the drug addiction. According to a statistics more than half of the addicted people use phensidyl becuase of its easy availability. Besides, a significant number is addicted to home made liquor, heroine, hemp, and pathedine injection. Of the addicted people 65 per cent use phensidyl, 30 per cent home-made liquor, two per cent hump, one per cent heroine and the rest two per cent pathedine, the survey revealed.

Alleged murderer of student leader held

NETRAKONA, July 11: Barhatta police arrested one person on charge of his alleged involvement in the murder of Salim Ahmed, a student leader of Barhatta thana under Netrakona district, reports BSS

Officer-in-Charge of Barhatta police station said, the arrested person was identified as Mahammed Kukon, son of Sukur Miah of village Gumuria under the Barhatta thana. Salim Ahmed, an influential leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Barhatta thana unit, was allegedly assassinated on the night of July 2. Acting on an information, Barhatta police recovered the discomposed body of Salim from a jutefield, about 300 yards off from the victim's house in the morning on 3rd July, the OC said.

Work under TR programme progressing

NOAKHALI, July 11: Work on 135 projects under Test Relief (TR) programme are in full swing in different areas of six

thanas under Noakhali district, reports BSS. District relief officer sources said, the projects included re-pair and renovation of different kutcha roads and earth work in different schools, madrashas and mosques. The government allocated 250 tonnes of wheat in the current financial year for implementation of the Test Relief projects.

Country-made liquor recovered

NAOGAON, July 11: Police recovered 40 litres of countrymade liquor and liquor making equipment in separate raids in

Dhamoirhat thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

District Narcotics Control Department and Dhamoirhat thana police in joint raids recovered the win from the residence of Rabi Das of village Jagadal, Firingi Das of village Mongalbari, Idris Ali and Uzzal of village Mukundapur. Four separate cases were filed with the police.

Smuggled Indian goods seized

COMILLA, July 11: Bangladesh Rifles has seized smuggling Indian goods worth of over Tk 11 lakh in separate drives in frontier areas of Sadar and Brahmanpara thana last week, reports UNB.

The goods included 1,349 pieces of sarees, 148 bottles of phensidyl syrup. nine kg hemp, sugar, pineapple and parts of bicycle. The drives were conducted at Chandpur bridge in Sadar thana. Shashidal rail station in Brahmanpara and frontiers Maldanadi, Shangkuchail, Barajala, Bibir Bazar, Mathurapur and Mamangonda.

Abductions on rise in 4 Kushtia thanas

From Our Correspondent

have been passing their days in great panic as abduction cases at gun-point by armed terrorists are on rise in the district. People of Mirpur, Bheramara. Daulatpur and Sadar thanas are worst sufferers. A total of 38 persons have been abducted from January 1998. Out of them seven have been released on payment of ransom, according to reports reaching here from the trouble-torn areas. Armed terrorists released Zahurul Islam (Bablu) on payment of a good amount of ransom in the month of January. But his friend Jhoru, 30, who was kidnapped along with him remained untraced. It is appre-

KUSHTIA, July 11: People

manded ransom. The terrorists abducted them from village Anjangachi in Mirpur thana on January 5. They demanded a good amount of ransom as condition of their release. Kotwali police in a joint operation with Bheramara police on January 31 at village Abdalpur in Bheramara thana arrested Jalaluddin, one of the abductors who abducted three persons in connection with possession of a shoal-land in the thana.

hended that he had been killed

due to non- payment of de-

hakula in Sadar thana was abducted and he was shot dead on January 31 for non-payment of ransom. Bheramara police recovered a body which was floating in the river Padma on January 31. The body was identified as that of missing Akkel Ali. Ismail Hossain, 65, of village Bashgram in Kumarkhali thana who was abducted and later on his body was recovered from a field adjacent to Bashgram Bazar on January 28. Mirpur and Daulatpur thana police in a joint raid rescued an abducted young man and arrested two persons in this connection. According to police, a gang of armed terrorists abducted Marjel Chowdhury, 26, son of Idbar Chowdhury of Amla Chowdhury Para in Mirpur thana from their house on February 7 and demanded Taka two lakh as ransom. Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid and rescued Marjel from the house of Mostaq Ali of village Amdaha in Daulatpur thana. Police arrested Taslim, 31, an absconding accused of village Hridayapur in the same thana and Monirul, 28, of village Sadarpur in Mirpur thana. The

arrested criminals were engaged

in abduction, murder, hi-

Arazman Ali of village Da-

jacking, dacoity and toll collection. They created a region of terror in Mirpur and Daulatpur thanas, police said. Taslim is a convicted person who was sentenced to 14 years' Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) and remained absconding. One Abdul Wahab was kidnapped by armed terrorists who shot at him on February 12 and left him in a field at village Mohiskundi in Daulatpur thana as the ransom money did not reach the terrorists in time.

The victim is the son of

Naimuddin of Mohiskundi village. The victim was admitted in Kushtia General Hospital after the incident. Mirpur police in a raid on February 2 at village Bharal in the thana rescued housewife Nazma and arrested two kidnappers. Police led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) Shakawat Hossain on a tip-off raided a house at the village and rescued her. She was kidnapped on January 30 by Kabil Hossain and Omar. On April 16, Abdul, Enamul, Samad and Sawkat were abducted from village Pachamdia. Madhugari and Daulatkhali of Daulatpur thana respectively. Their family members rescued them on payment of ransom. On May 21,

Habil, a night guard of Jagoit Bazar of Sadar thana was abducted while he was on duty. On June 5, Amjad Hossain, a truck owner of Bheramara was abducted and in the face of tough movement by the general people he was released after five days. A source said that he was released after payment of heavy ransom, but he did not admit it out of fear. Ahsan, 12, son of Nur Hossain of village Ram Nazar in Mirpur thana was abducted by armed terrorists in June. The abductors demanded Taka one lakh as ransom.

In a similar way one group of armed terrorists have been collecting toll from well-to-do persons of village Sherpur of Daulatpur thana by giving threat of abduction. One family of village Jhoudia in the Sadar thana has received such threat, but this family has not yet disclosed it to police. Bheramara police, however, rescued one abducted person when it came to their knowledge and arrested four persons in this connection.

Meanwhile, villagers of Dighalkandi caught four members of a group of dacoits on June 10 and handed them to Daulatpur police. The dacoits are Ghani Molla, Mintoo Molla, Ranajit Molla and Dulal.

Manifold problems grip Bajitpur Pourasava

KISHOREGANJ, July 11: The dwellers of Bajitpur Pourasava here have been facing manifold problems including deplorable condition of roads, scarcity of pure water and frequent power

According to the local people, absence of proper drainage system, inadequate street light, lack of proper sanitary arrangement also cause immense sufferings in the area.

failure, reports UNB.

There is no water supply system in the poura area and hand driven tube-wells most of which are out of order can not meet the need of a large number of dwellers. Most of the roads in the area

are narrow and uneven. Cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads. Even after a slight rainfall the roads become muddy. Rain water remains stag-

nant on the roads causing difficulties to the pedestrians as well as the vehicular traffic. Moreover, the roadside

ditches filled with filth and garbage are not being cleaned regularly. As a result, these have turned into safe breeding centres for the mosquitoes. Absence of proper drainage

system, lack of adequate toilet, dirty fish market cause serious

health hazards to the inhabi-

Most of the street lights have no bulbs. As a result, the area plunges into darkness after sundown giving rise to anti-so-

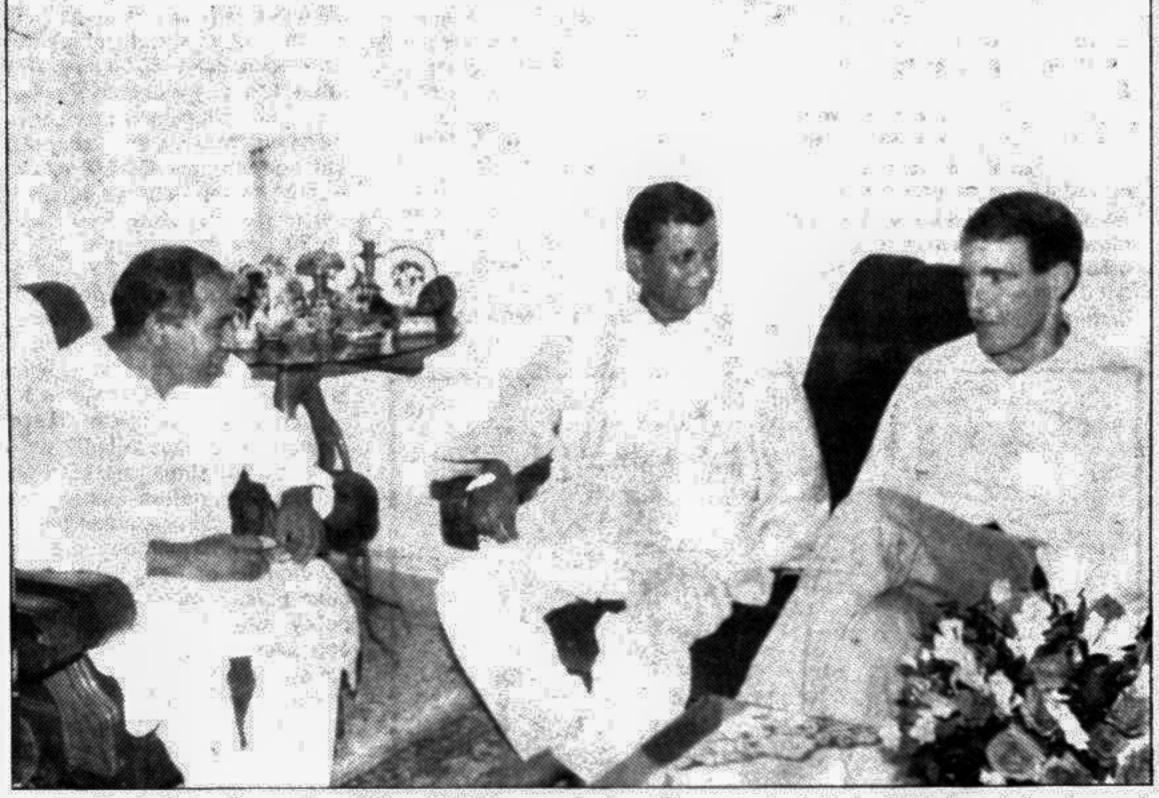
cial activities The local people urged the authorities to take immediate measures to mitigate their sufferings.

21 power stations in Ctg on verge of collapse

CHITTAGONG, July 11: Twenty-one power sub-stations in greater Chittagong, which were damaged by cyclone seven years ago, may go out of order any time as rehabilitation work on the stations could not yet be taken up by the authorities concerned, reports UNB.

Officials sources said, the Japanese government has agreed to provide Tk 200 crore for rehabilitation of the sta-

They said the region, which has already been hit hard by short supply of electricity, may face a severe power crisis if the stations go out of order for lack of rehabilitation work.



SYLHET: US Ambassador John C Holzman during his recent visit to Sylhet met leaders of the main stream political parties. He is seen with M A Haque and Ariful Huq Chowdhury, president and general secretary of the district unit of BNP. Possibility of exporting gas from Bangladesh was also discussed during the meeting. - Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee

Paddy procurement drive in C'nawabganj faces setback

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 11: Procurement drive of IRRI-Boro rice has been progressing. The target of rice procurement of the first phase has already

been fulfilled.

Accoprding to the local food office sources, the target of one thousand 5 hundred metric tons of rice for the first phase has alread been achieved. In the sec-

Flash flood in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, July 11: Onrush of hilly waters from the upstream and heavy downpour during the last few days caused flash flood in 12 unions of three thanas of the district, reports UNB. Water levels of all the rivers

in the district, including the Jamuna marked a sharp rise and the Jamuna is flowing 16 cm above the danger mark at Bahadurabad ghat on Friday. District Relief and Rehabili-

tation office sources said 20 villages of Bahadurabad, Charamkhawa, Hatibhanga, Chikajani and Chukaibari unions under Dewanganj thana and 15 villages of Nomarpara, Sapdhari, Kulkandi and Belgacha unions under Islampur thana and the low-lying areas of Barijuri, Jorkhali and Gunaritala unions in Madarganj thana have been inundated by flood waters.

Standing crops on a vast tract of land have been damaged by the sudden flooding.

From Our Correspondent

ond phase the target was fixed up at two thousand 5 hundred metric tons. Out of which seven hundred and 30 metric tons have been procured. But the procurement drive of

paddy is likely to face a setback during the current IRRI-Boro season due to sudden price-hike in the market. The target for procurement of paddy in the district was two thousand and 4 hundred 50 metric tons. Out of which one thousand 1 hundred 15 metric tons was targetted in Nachole thana, 8 hundred 50 metric tons in Gomostapur thana and 35 metric tons in Bholahat thana. No procurement target for paddy was earmarked for Sadar and Shibganj thana for the first pahse. But for the second phase the target was three hundred metric tons for Sadar thana and one hundred 50 metric tons

for Shibgoni thana. A negligible amount of paddy could be purchased till writing of this report.

When contacted the Deputy Controller of Food , Chapainawabgonj MA Baten said, the paddy procurement drive is being hampered as the market price of paddy is higher than the government rate. Mainly fine paddy is grown in Chapai nawabgeni. This is always costlier than coarse paddy, he added. The government rate of paddy is Taka 755 per quintal when its market price is Taka 760 per quintal.

The market price of rice is also higher than the govern-

ment price. Besides, the farmers have to bear the carrying cost to transport rice to the LSD godwon. As a result, farmers are not getting interested in selling their rice and paddy to the Food

It is to be noted, during the last wheat season the procurement of wheat exceeded target as the government rate was higher than that of the market

4 of a family hacked to death in Bagerhat BAGERHAT, July 11: Four

members of a family were hacked to death at village Rajair under Sarankhola thana in the district on Thursday night, reports UNB.

They were identified as Abdul Latif Howlader, 52, his wife Somira Begum, 45, their son Kamruzzaman, 30, and daughter Surma Akter Putul, 18. Police suspected the killers

entered into the house of Lau:

Howlader shortly after midnight and chopped them with sharp weapons Earlier, Latif was allegedly threatened by one Siddique Gharami of the village claiming

a "valuable boundary pillar" which was in Latif's possession, police said. The bodies were sent to hos-

pital for autopsy. A case was lodged in this connection.



SATKHIRA: A huge quantity of fish was exterminated when a group of miscreants poured poison into a pond at village Gunakostani in Assassuni thana recently. - Star photo

Accidents kill 3 in 2 districts By Staff Correspondent

Three persons including a boy were killed and 20 others

injured in road and rail accidents in Kushtia and Lalmonirhat on Thursday and Friday. Our Kushtia Correspondent

adds: One person was killed and another 20 were injured in separate road accidents Thursday. Jagmal, 75, was crushed under the wheels of a Kushtiabound bus near Taragonia on

The accident occurred when a truck tried to overtake the

Pragpur-Kushtia road.

The victim died on the spot. A case has been registered with Daulatpur police station. In another incident, 20 people were injured when a bus lost

tree Thursday afternoon on Kushtia-Bheramara road. Some of the injured were treated at Janasheba clinic in Bheramara while the rest were

sent to Kushtia General Hospi-

its control and hit a road-side

The injured were identified as Azibar, Rony, Zillu, Shajahan and Mozibar all residents of the Mirpur thana. Others who were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital are: Samila, 22. Dulal. 28. Bhadu, 40. Aziz Mondol, 35, Maluba, 23, Shaiful, 35, Lili, 35, Parul, 40, Abdur Rashid, 30, Banu Khatun, 30, Angur Ali, 60, Mim, 35, Khushi. 25. According to eye witnesses, the helper of the bus was in the driving seat instead of driver.

Bheramara police seized the bus. A case has been registered with the Bheramara police sta-

UNB adds: Two children were killed in separate road and rail accidents in Lalmonirhat vesterday.

Witnesses said, an unidentified youth died as he was run over by a train near Velurpara under Sadar thana at noon.

In another road accident, an eight-year-old boy, identified as Halim, was crushed under the wheels of a speedy bus at Tusvandar Bazar on Patgram road in the district.

River erosion renders 400 families homeless

FARIDPUR, July 11: Dwelling houses and standing crops of a vast tract of land of Sadarpur thana of this district were eroded by the river Arial Khan during last few days and the erosion is still continuing alarmingly, reports BSS.

According to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Faridpur who visited the affected areas on Thursday said that 10 villages of Charmanair union of Sadarpur thana have been affected by the erosion. The worst affected villages are Chardubail, Khas Char Manair and Mollah Kandi. The DC said that by this time

about 400 families have been rendered homeless by the erosion when their homesteads were devoured. The standing immatured

Aus paddy is being used as fodder as the paddy fields have been threatened by erosion. Scarcity of pure drinking water is prevailing in some

places of the affected areas.

However, arrangements have been made to sink some new The DC further said that the erosion situation might take a serious turn within a few days if it continues with present in-

300 affected by diarrhoea in Lalmonirhat

tensity.

LALMONIRHAT, July 11: Diarrhoea that broke out in three unions of Kaliganj thana in an alarming proportion on Tuesday has so far affected about 300 people, reports UNB. According to the thana health complex, every day the

affected people are rushing the complex and the condition of 21 people is serious. The unions are Tushvander, Dotmari and Dalgram. District Civil Surgeon visited the affected areas and assured all possible help to combat the

spread of the disease.

CHTSFD earned revenue of Tk 5 cr last fiscal

RANGAMATI, July 11: Chit-tagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division (CHTSFD) has earned a revenue of above Taka five crore in fiscal 1997-98, ever highest during the period of insurgency prevailed in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports BSS.

"We could have earned more revenue, if our access would be so secured in the inaccessible forest areas in the first half of the last fiscal like that of the second half and at present, following the signing of the peace accord," Tapan Kumar Dey, divisional forest officer of CHTSFD told recently at his office.

Access of the forest officials in the territorial forest was not secured and virtually there was no departmental administration due to insurgency, he added.

CHTSFD, earned the revenue through disposing of cyclone damaged and seized timbers. collection of royalty from bamboos and imposing of penalty on transports carrying illegal forest produces, Tapan Dey

CHTSFD, a major territorial division in Rangamati Forest Circle, has got a forest covering

about 6.28 lakh acres including reserved forests and unclassed state forests possessing different valuable trees worth over thousands crore of taka, he added.

Tragic!

SATKHIRA, July 11: A mother after poisoning to death her minor son allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Bhamiya village in Shyamnagar thana here on Sunday, reports UNB. The victims were identified

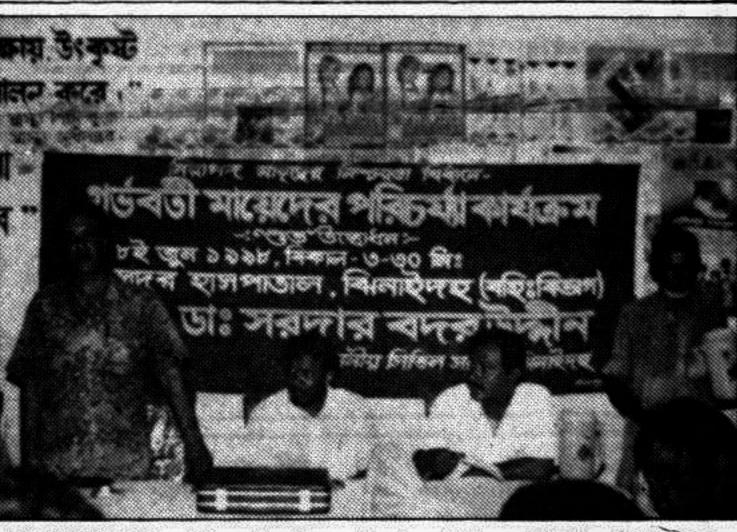
as Kalpana Rani, 25, and her son Babu, 3. According to police, Kalpana the second wife of Kamala Kanta committed the tragic incidents at dead of night.

hospital for postmortem. The reason behind the incidents could not be known immedi-Mentionable that the first

The bodies were sent to the

wife of Kamala Kanta also committed suicide some months back.

Police arrested Kamala Kanta and a UD case has been filed in this connection.



JHENIDAH: Dr Sardar Badruddin, Civil Surgeon, Jhenidah speaking as the chief guest following inauguration of a nursing programme for pregnant mothers at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital recently. — Star photo

Chalan Beel development project yet to make headway

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 11: The proposed Chalan Beel Integrated Area Development Project (CBIAD), covering Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj districts. is yet to make any headway.

Though the five- year project was included in the Annual Development Porgramme (ADP) during 1997-98 financial year. it was not even placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), sources informed. The total expense of the project was estimated at Taka

.5 billion. Another Taka 320 million was supposed to be spent for training of people related to pisciculture in the areas mea-

> Two killed in Comilla road

COMILLA July 11:Two people were killed and another 26 injured in three road mishaps on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Sunday, reports UNB.
Police said three people were

accidents

seriously injured when a pri-vate car collided head-on with a truck at Jinglatali in Daudkandi thana at 1 am. Of the injured, two unidenti-fied people, aged between 30 to

35, succumbed to their injuries at Gouripur Hospital. The other man is undergoing treatment. In another accident, 23 people sustained injuries in a collision between two passenger buses at 8 am near Palki Cin-

ema Hall in Chandina thana. The third mishap occurred at 6 am when a Chittagongbound private car rammed into a truck at Beltali in Sadar thana, leaving two car passen-

gers injured. Separate cases have been filed with the police in these connections.

suring 1,500 closed waterbodies and development of 100 kilometres of roads to help develop the growth centres.

The project was aimed at ensuring improved irrigation systems, use of modern technology for agriculture and eradication of illiteracy. It also included repair work and reinstallation of 493 inoperative deep tubewells, aiming at producing an additional 40,400 tonnes of crops on 30,000 hectares of land in the three

aforementioned districts. The project was drawn up in the light of the success of Barind Multipurpose Development Project (BMDP).

The irrigation wing of the Ministry of Agriculture approved the project and sent it to the Planing Commission. The commission then included the project in the ADP and primarily indicated a sanction of Taka five million for the project which is now subject to the approval of ECNEC.

140 homeless families to be rehabilitated

MAGURA, July 11: A total 140 homeless families will be rehabilitated in 14 rehabilitation centres in four thanas under the government Safe Home programme, reports UNB.

Official sources said some 10 families will be rehabilitated in each centre. Three safe home centres will be constructed at village Nanduali of sadar thana, Horindi of Sripur thana and Singra of Shalikha thana. Meanwhile, another three in

village Mousha of Mohammadpur thana and eight in Bono-gram village will be also constructed. The Safe Home centres are

being constructed on government khas land.