Newssnaps

Road maintenance project in 3 hill dists

BANDARBAN, Aug 10: The Local Government Engineering Department has taken up a rural road maintenance project in the three hill districts for the 1998-2001 period, reports UNB. An official sources of LGED said the project will be extended to 111 unions of 25 thanas in Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari districts. A 10-km feeder road for usual movement of the pedestrians in every union of three hill districts will be maintained all the year round by the distressed women under a fixed remuneration. Road Maintenance Associations in every union will be formed consisting of 10 distressed women for three years. Store-keepers of Thana Engineering Department, UP chairmen and mouja-headmen will provide assistance in monitoring the project. monitoring the project.

New post office at Barisal Women's College

BARISAL, Aug 10: A new post office was set up here at the government women's college premises recently, reports BSS.

A function was held on this occasion which was presided over by the principal of the college Prof Shamsuddin Mollah. The function was attended by Mujibar Rahman, Post Master General (PMG) of Khulna range as the chief guest. Executive Engineer, Facilities Department Mr Ali Azam, Vice-principal of the college AB Nurul Huq, Deputy Post Master General of Barisal division Naeb Delwar Hossain, and a large number of teachers and students were present in the inaugural function.

Discussion on pisciculture

NAOGOAN, Aug 10: A discussion on pisciculture organised by local fisheries department in observance of the National Fish Week was held at Dhamoirhat thana headquarters under Nao-

goan district last week, reports BSS.

M Shamsuzzhoha Khan MP, attended the discussion as chief guest. Thana Nirbahi Officer, Dhamoirhat Iqbal Hossain presided over the meeting. A colourful rally was brought out and fish fry and fingerlines were released in different ponds on the occasion.

21 arrested in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Aug 10: Police arrested 21 persons in connection with the attack of local Awami League office and clash over establishing supremacy in Gazipur bus terminal on August 4, reports BSS

Police also seized a motor cycle and recovered a fire arm with ammunition in connection with the incident. Some students of Kazi Azimuddin College staged a demonstration at the college premises and brought out a procession in the town protesting the arrest of students leaders.

3 killers get life-term

JESSORE, Aug 10: Three people were awarded life term imprisonment here on Tuesday for murdering a man, reports UNB. According to the prosecution story, Abul Kalam, Mizan and Ramjan of Chauchra area of the town brutally killed Jahangir Hossain, a local contractor, on June 7 in 1996 following a previous enmity. Saleha Begum, wife of the victim, filed a case with the Kotwali thana against the three people. Police submitted charge sheet against them after investigation. After examining the witnesses and records Additional District and Sessions Judge Sirajul Islam awarded the punishment.

Convicted absconder arrested

NETRAKONA, Aug 10: Netrakona detective branch of police in a special drive arrested a convicted absconder from station road area here on July 30, reports BSS.

Police sources said, acting on a tip-off a team of plainclothes policemen led by DB police Sub-Inspector SC Sarker caught the fugitive Atar Ali alias Dulal from the area. Dulal was sentenced in absentia to suffer Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) for seven years and fined Taka two thousand, in default, to suffer another three months' of imprisonment, by the District and Sessions Judge, Netrakona on September 24, 1996 in a dacoity case.

Housewife beaten to death

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 10: A young housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband in Ullapara thana here on Saturday. reports UNB.

According to police, Abdul Khaleque picked up a quarrel with his wife Rashida Khatun, 20, on a trifling matter of sizing the fish for cooking by her. At one stage of altercation he got furious and beat her to death. Rashida was passing bad days since her marriage with the man six months back, villagers said. A case was filed with police, but the accused went into hiding after the incident.

Tagore's death anniversary observed

JHENIDAH, Aug 10: The 57th death anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore and the Hiroshima Day was observed here on Thursday, reports UNB.

In observance of the day, Jhonkar Shilpi Ghosthi and Gano Shilpi Sangstha jointly organised a discussion meeting at the local Shilpakala auditorium. The meeting, chaired by Abdus Salam, president of Gano Shilpi Sangstha, was also addressed by Goutam Basu and Tahera Begum Jolly. They dwelt at length on the life activities of the great poet. Later, a cultural function was held with the participation of the local artistes.

Efforts on to improve people's lot

MORRELGANJ, Bagerhat, Auglo: State Minister for Social Welfare and Womens' Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain said here that the present government has ensured the highest utilisation of the country's limited resources for improving the lot of the common people who were so long neglected by the past governments, reports BSS.

The state minister was speaking at a function held at Baharbunia High School premises in Morrelganj police station of Bagerhat district in connection with the distribution of financial grants to different organisations. The function was also addressed, among others, by the chairmen of different union parishads and local Awami League leaders.

Separate incidents claim 3 lives JHENIDAH, Aug 10: Three persons were killed including UP

member in separate incidents in Kaligani and Kotchandpur thanas of the district recently, police sources said, reports BSS. One Abul Hossain. 55, of village Kamlapur under Kaligani thana was beaten to death by some miscreants on Monday night. Police recovered his body on the next day morning. Sheladatta, 9, student of class three of Subarnasara under Aligan thana was brutally killed by some unknown miscreants while she was returning from school on Sunday. Alal Uddin, 38, a member of Sabdalpur Union Parishad was hacked to death by some armed cadres of an outlawed party in Durbakundu village

in Kotchandpur thana on Saturday night. Tree fair concludes

RANGAMATI, Aug 10: A week-long tree fair concluded on Monday morning at the premises of Rangamati Municipality office here, reports BSS

Seventeen stalls belonging to different government agencies and individuals were put up in the fair displaying saplings of various species of trees for sale. Jointly sponsored by Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council and Forest Department the concluding ceremony of the tree fair was held in the auditorium of Rangamati Municipality with Golam Guddus Chowdhury, Conservator of Forests of Rangamati forest circle in the chair.

BSTI realises fine

KHULNA, Aug 10: Regional office of Bangladesh Standard and resung institute (BS11) here realised Tk 1.30 lakh as line from different markets of Khulna and Barisal divisions during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Some 44 mobile courts of the institute filed 536 cases against the businessmen for using unauthorised measures and weights and selling sub-standard goods to the consumers. Officials said during the period they seized 6.11 maunds old weights, 1.98 quintal new weights, 304 tubes used for measuring liquids, 32 yardsticks, about 1,400 wood and other scales from the shops and other business establishments. They also seized various low quality and substandard consumer goods like biscuit. sweat, ghee, salt and dry-cell battery.

Alleged cow lifter beaten to death

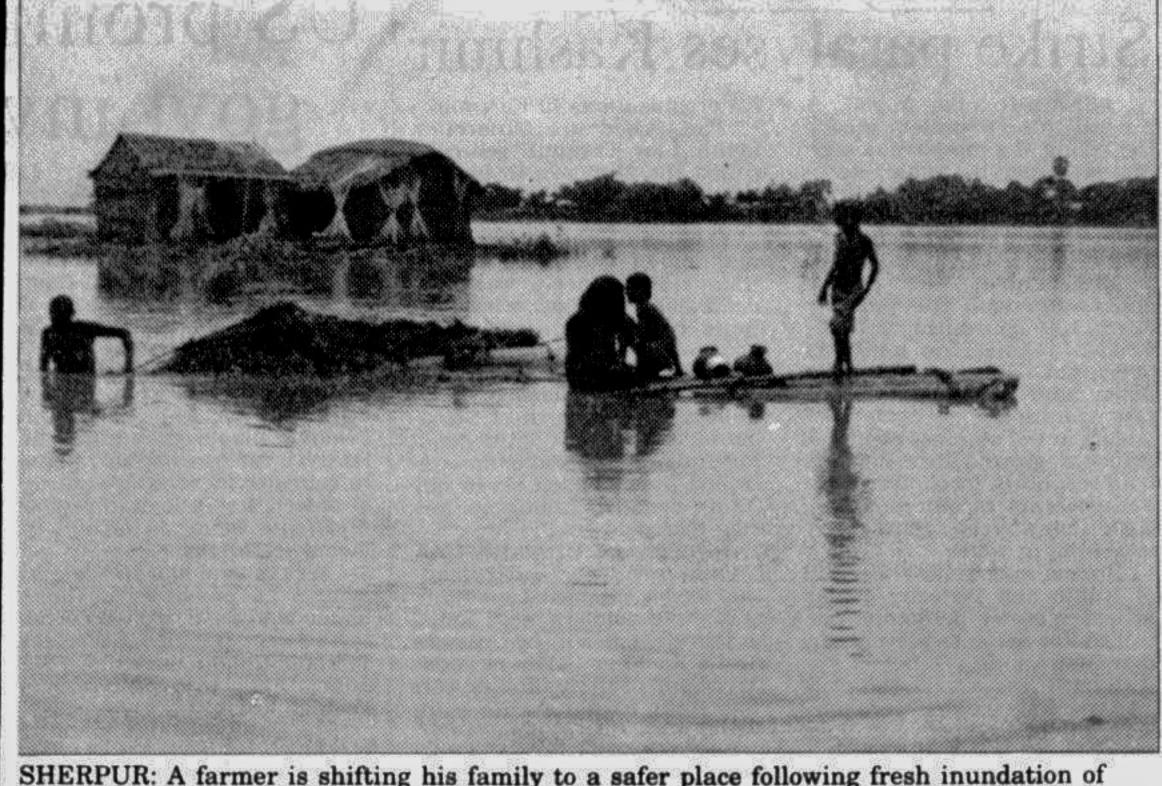
BANDARBAN, Aug 10: An unidentified alleged cow lifter was beaten to death by public on Wednesday at Udal Bania village in Sadar thana here, reports UNB.

Police recovered the dead body and sent it to sadar thana hospital morgue for autopsy. Police, however, arrested three people in connection with the murder. A case was filed.

Phensidyl seized: 2 women held

MADARIPUR, Auglo: Police arrested two women and seized 400 bottles of phensidyl syrup from Tekerhat Bus Stoppage in Rajoir thana here on Tuesday, reports UNB. Police also seized 80 packets of cumin seeds from them. The

arrested, identified as Jahanara Begum, 35, and Jhuma Begum, 15, are sisters, said the police. A case was filed against them.



SHERPUR: A farmer is shifting his family to a safer place following fresh inundation of village Sainombor char in the sadar thana recently. - Star photo

crops on 16,773 acres of land

have been damaged completely

erty due to rapid erossion of the

Charpukkhimary union added

that atleast 75 houses had been

devoured in the Brahmaputtra.

More than 500 families have

been compelled to leave their

houses due to flood. About 1,000

families are still living in thier

inundated houses. Their stand-

ing crops have been destroyed

completely. Thana Nirbahi Of-

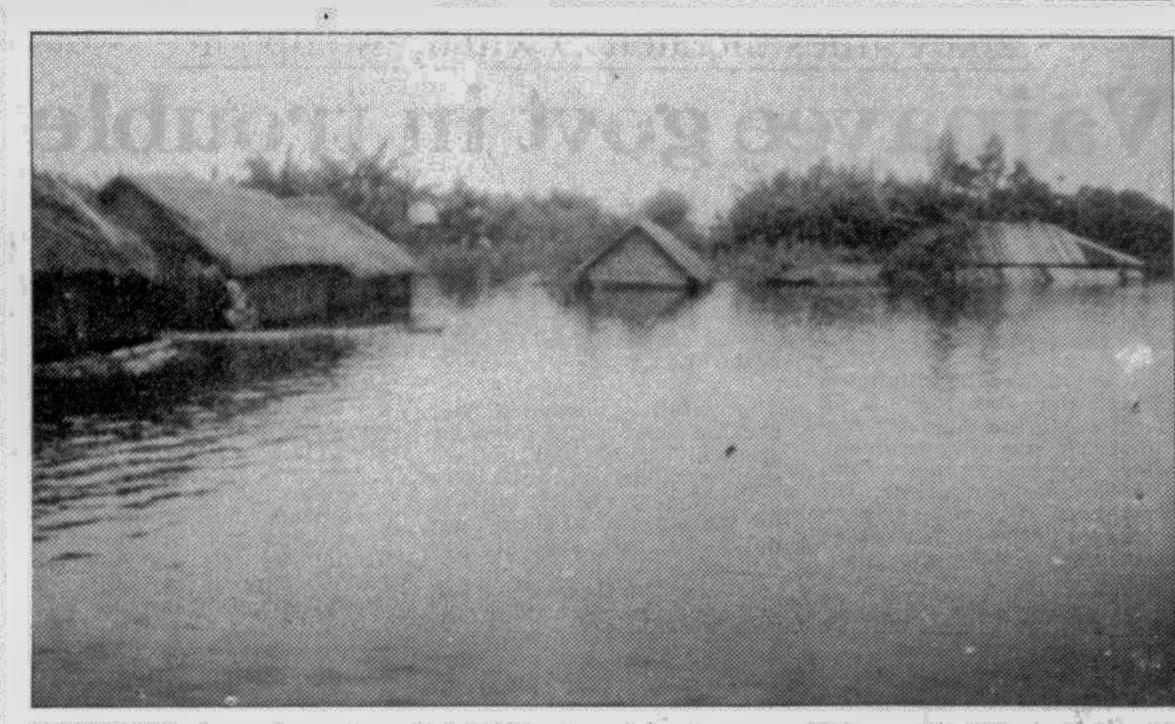
ficer (TNO) sadar Md. Asadul is-

lam said scarcity of drinking

water has become very acute as

Md. Eliusuddin, Chairman,

Brahmaputtra.



RANGPUR: A total number of 1,600 houses of Anantapur village under Ulipur thana in Kurigram district have been submerged by flood water. Damage on one kilometre area in the western side of Brahmaputra embankment has created such situation a few weeks ago. But stagnant water is yet to drain out. The villagers are passing their days in great mis-- Star photo

Massive damages to 'Aman' seedlings in Rangpur

Sherpur flood claims loss of Tk 11cr in agri-sector From Ratan Chowdhury

SHERPUR, Aug 10:"I have not witnessed such a severe flood in last 75 years of my life in our localitiy", said Abdul Karim of village janggoldir char in the Sadar thana of the district on August 2.

Karim and his family have taken shelter on remaining portion of Brahmaputtra flood protection embankment passing through their village.

"I have experienced the flood of 1966, 1988 and 1991. That was really devastating but prevailed only for three to seven days. Water came rapidly and receded rapidly," he said. But the flood waters till August 3 remained over five unions in the Sadar thana and two unions in Nakla thana. All the 51 out of 52 unions

including two pourashavas of the district have been submerged in five days excepting a few high areas. Md Naofel Mia, Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur, in-

formed The Daily Star that almost 70 per cent area of the district had gone under water in five thanas. The flood situation has im-

most of the tubewells have been proved in Sreebordi, Nalitabari, submerged Nakla and Jhenaigati, but the L K Pandit (SMO) Depart-

ment of Agriculture Extension. situation in the Sadar thana remained unchanged. Sherpur, said that jute plants on 65 hectares of land in the However, water has started re-Sadar than have been comceding very slowly. According to the district pletely damaged. But the chairmen of the respective administration, a total o 44,072 families in five thanas unions under the Sadar thana told The Daily Star. more than have been affected. Standing

or partially. flood water. Ex-chairmen of Chan-The SMO of the Agriculture drakuna under Nakla thana, Extension Department Md. Bazu Mia said, more than said, vegetables on 668 hectares 50 families were frightened and of land have been damaged fled from their houses emptycompletely in five thanas. handed leaving all their prop-

According to a survey conducted by the Department of Agriculture Extension, Sherpur, standing crops worth about Taka 11 crore in the agricultural sector has been damaged by the flood.

200 hectares of jute-fileds have

been submerged completely by

Local sources informed that thousands of hens and ducks have been washed away by flood waters.

Menawhile, some organised gangs of dacoits have become active in some flood affected areas. They have been stealing from the houses left by the flood victims. Crisis of all daily commodities have become acute in the district. Coarse rice is now being sold for Taka 16 per

kg which was sold for Tak.all a month ago.

Relief metarials like food. fuel and cash should be supplied without delay to the flood victims of the sadar thana. Flood situation in six unions under the sadar thana has remained unchanged despite recession of waters. **Our Rangpur Correspondent**

Mozammel Huq reports: At least one lakh acres of standing Aman crop field and seed -beds have been inundated, of them about 50 per cent areas have been damaged completely, according to sources.

The Agriculture Extension Department apprehended. there will be huge shortage of 'Aman' seedlings if the flood water does not recede soon. The farmers said that the stagnant flood water might cause colossal damages to the seedlings. This will ultimately cause a set- back to the Aman farmings in the district during the current season.

There was a target to bring at least 3,87,790 acres of land under Aman paddy cultivation in the district during the current year. But due to heavy downpour and flood, Aman seedling

sowing was hampered to a great extent in the whole district.

The agriculturists said, Aman seedlings sowing practically started from the month of June. But, unfortuantely the heavy downpour and the flood started last month frustrated the farmers.

The farmers have no extra Aman seeds. They will expreience a serious shortage and price hike. The Agriculture Extension

Department is also lacking required stocks of Aman seeds to recoup loss of the seedlings.

The governemt should immediately arrange adequate supply of seeds and seedlings of Aman paddy in the flood ravaged areas of the district to avert Aman crop failure as happened last year UNB from Kishoreganj re-

ports: As the flood waters started receding, river erosion has hit three thanas of the district. The worst hit unions of the

thanas are Katkhali, Gugdighi, Charigram in Mithaimon thana, Abdullahpur, Bangarpara in Austragram and Singpur, Boriabari, Elangjuri and Badla in Itna thana.

NATORE, Auglo: Most of the

card phone booths in the dis-

trict have been lying inopera-

tive for months together due to

lack of maintenance, reports

installed by T&T in the town

and five in different thana

headquarters of the district in

1996 to provide better telephone

of the booths was satisfactory

at the beginning, but it deterio-

rated as the time passed due to

negligence by the T&T men in

maintaining the lines and ma-

They complained that the

technicians responsible for

maintenance of the card phone

booths are not always available

even after repeated reminders

into 'unit eating machines',

they said adding that these are

Some of the sets have turned

Local users said the service

service to the people.

chines.

by the officials.

Four card phone booths were

Some 2,550 homesteads, including two educational institutions, of the thanas went into the gorge of the river, officials

Another report from Habigani says: Drinking water scarcity has turned acute in Habiganj district following damage of huge tube-wells by

the flood. Various diseases including diarrhoea and dysentery have broken out in the flood affected

Local Public Health Engineering Department sources said some 2,900 tube-wells have been damaged by the current

flood in all the seven thanas. According to the sources, some 945 tube-wells have been damaged in Madhabpur thana, 520 in Sadar, 415 in Lakhai. 575 in Baniachang, 323 in Azamiriganj, 70 in Nabiganj and 52 in Chunarughat thana.

Besides, a number of tubewells set up by NGOs and private initiatives have also been damaged by the flood. Local leaders urged the au-

thority concerned to take immediate steps to repair the disordered tube-wells to solve the pure water crisis in the district.

now eating up more units when

rejected by some machines as

eject the cards as soon as the re-

spondent receives the call and

said T&T men have been show-

ing reluctance in maintaining

the booths as their 'illegal earn-

ing' decreased substantially

with the introduction of the

scarce in the post offices. But,

the users said, these are avail-

able in black market at a rate

the authorities to take mea-

sures to fix the phones and stop

black marketing of the cards to

ensure easy telephone services

higher than the actual price.

Besides, cards have become

Card phone users have urged

the card is shown as 'used up'.

'out of order', they said.

card phone system.

Even valid cards are being

Moreover, some machines

The card phone users here

they made call.

Discussion on Govt-NGO coop

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, Aug10: A discussion on 'priority areas of government and NGO cooperation in Rangpur and Dinajpur region' was held recently at Rangpur Parjatan Motel conference room. It was organised by the European Commission — NGO Dialogue Project.

Chief guest Sheikh Khurshed Alam, Additional District Magistrate, Rangpur inaugurated the discussion highlighting the need for a better coordination between government and NGOs in their respective ar eas. Dr Berthold Kuhn, team leader of the project, presented an innovative approach and the activities of the project. He particularly mentioned that the EC was one of the biggest donors to both Government of Bangladesh and NGOs and had a distinctive partnership approach

The EC-NGO Dialogue Project, however, had a discussion about necessities of field visits in Rangpur and other parts of the country to have clear view of the positive output and contribution.

Housewife tortured for dowry, returns to parent's home

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 10:A housewife came back to her parent's house at last fearing a



Milli with daughter The victim, Milli Begum, 19, came back to her parent's house at Momenpara village under Nachole thana of the district with her little daughter fearing a murder attempt by her husband Nurul Islam. She was married to him in 1994 and got

a daughter. Milli Begum filed a

case with Nachole thana. It was reported that Islam seriously battered her for dowry. He also pressed her to get 30,000 taka from her brother who returned from Saudi Arabia recently. When she refused, Islam forcibly put poison in her mouth and she screemed for help. Neighbours came and she was taken to the thana health (PDB) sources said it can supply



SYLHET: Toufiqul Islam who stood third in the combined merit list of Science group from Comilla Board is seen with his parents Dr Abdur Rashid Dewan and Lutfee Sultana. — Star photo

Marriage of girls below 18 years is common in Kushtia villages

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 10: Marriages are being solemnised without resigtration in the rural areas of the district due to a number of reasons.

The number one reason is

the high registration fees demanded by the marriage registrars. Marriage of girls below the age of 18 is a common feature in the rural areas. Poor parents allow their daughters to get married at early stage of life. Even 12 years old girls are getting married in the rural areas. This practice exists mainly among farmers and daylabourers who are hand to mouth. In most cases marriages

NATORE, Auglot The overall

industrialisation in northern

region is facing set back due to

acute power crisis, reports

ing industrial units of the re-

gion is being hampered ad-

versely disappointing the local

entrepreneurs to set up new in-

The present power genera-

tion in the region is only 121

megawatt. The National Grid

line (NG) is supplying only 80 to

120 megawatt of electricity dur-

ing the peak hours daily against

Power Development Board

dustries in the region.

the demand of 360 MW.

The production in the exist-

are being soleminsed without registration in the rural areas as the poor guardians of the brides can not meet the demandof the marriage registrars.

The marriages without registration are not safe. Such marriages often end in divorce. The number of divorce is rising day by day in the rural areas. In most cases dowry is the cause of divorce. According to a source, 60 per cent marriages are being solemnised without registration in the poverty stricken families in the rural areas.

The divorced girls return to their parents for food and shel-

less than one third of 360

megawatt required daily during

the peak hours in 16 northern

said this setback in power sup-

ply is seriously hindering the

overall industrialisation pro-

An official of Rajshahi PDB

The electricity is now being

supplied to 16 northern dis-

tricts from the National Grid

line through Iswardi Station in

Pabna where a 132 KV power

transmission line is connected

tions through 132 KV lines un-

der three circles in the region.

Power reaches 17 grid-sta-

Most of the three transform-

districts of the country.

cess in the region.

with the NG.

ter. The sustaining of the daughters at the parents' homes often cause altercation. The young men belonging to low income group in the rural areas are prone to polygamy. Very often they can not resist the lure of dowry from the comparatively well-off families. As a result they do not hesitate to divorce their first wives who fail to bring dowry for them.

Some greedy marriage registrars also register marriages showing the girls to have attained puberty suppressing their real age. The dowry victims need social security and

yet to replace these transform-

ers. The existing supply net-work will not be able to bear

any more load when industrial-

isation starts in the region.

trepreneurs urged the govern-

ment to take immediate mea-

sures to implement the 300-MW

Barapukuria Steam-turbine

and 100 MW gas-turbine power

plant projects at Baghabari in

the region to restore normal in-

dustrial production.

The private sector en-

increasing load.

they added.

Malnutrition claimed 10,000 lives of children in 5 years in S-E dists

Most card phone booths in

Natore lying inoperative

NOAKHALI, Aug 10: Over 10,000 children of country's 11 south-eastern districts died of malnutrition during the last five years due to lack of balanced diet, want of proper treatment facilities and ignorance of their parents, reports

A survey conducted by a foreign NGO with the help of some local social welfare organisations also reveled that over 17 lakh children of the area are suffering from severe malnutrition, of which, 17,000 have been suffering from blindness.

The organisations conducted

the survey in Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati

districts.

to the people.

Moreover, about 10,000 children have been crippled from birth and 16,000 children disabled after birth for want of balanced diet. The survey also showed that

the mothers suffering from malnutrition could not feed enough breast milk to their children. Poor Development Pro-

gramme (PDP), and NGO working in the char areas of the Noakhali region, in its report said, 99 per cent people of the char areas lack adequate food and proper knowledge of health.

They eat whatever they get without knowing the good or bad effect and consequently suffer from various diseases, the

Power crisis hampering output Killing of 2 girls in tractor in industrial units in N-region

KISHOREGANJ. Aug 10: ers go out of order frequently Thousands of students and lodue to deplorable condition and Local entrepreneurs alleged that no steps have been taken as

The victims Lipa, 10, and Nargis, 9, died on the spot and Billal, 7, and Shipa, 3, were in-

mishap protested jured seriously.

drivers.

cal people on Sunday brought out a procession in the town here protesting the killing of two girls in a tractor mishap. reports UNB. The two girls were crushed

on Thursday under the wheels of the speeding tractor while they were playing at their resi-dence at Gaital-Noapara area in Monohordi thana. The driver of the rice loaded tractor lost its control on Kishoreganj-Mymensingh road and the vehicle entered into the roadside house by breaking the wall.

According to local people, several people died and injured in tractor accidents in the district during the last few months due mainly to rash driving by unskilled and unlicenced

According to a source, only 25 tractors out of 170 have road permits in the district. The processionists submit-

ted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner and Police Super to take action against plying of unauthorised tractors and killing of the girls.

The authority put restriction on movement of the tractors in the district after the incident.