

Flood situation worsens in Gournadi thana of Barisal dist

Damaged embankment at Nazirpur in Naogaon may cause havoc

News snaps

One feared drowned as boat capsizes

MUNSHIGANJ, Aug 12: One person was feared drowned when a passenger engine boat capsized in the river Dhaleswari on Monday following a collision with a motor launch, reports BSS.

The accident occurred near the Munshiganj river ghat. According to police, motor vehicle Agradoot was bound for Dhaka from Hularhat while the engine boat was plying towards Munshiganj town from Sirajdikhan of the district. After the mishap 11 passengers of the boat managed to swim to safety. One passenger identified as Md Tara Mia, 32, was reportedly drowned. His body could not, however, be recovered.

Free medical camp concludes

SATKHIRA, Aug 12: Two-day free medical camp organised by the Rotary and Rotaract Club of Satkhira in memory of Rotarian Dr Shyampada Paul concluded here on Sunday, reports BSS.

The camp was held at the clinic of late Dr Shyampada Paul at Polashal. The medical camp was jointly conducted by Prof Dr Sunil Bhattacharya, a medicine specialist of Calcutta and Dr Sushanta Ghosh of Satkhira. More than 200 poor patients from different parts of the district received treatment in the medical camp.

T-Aman farming scheme in S-dists

BARISAL, Aug 12: A total of 8,09,256 hectares have been brought under Transplanted Aman paddy cultivation in 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone (BAEZ) in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the production target has been fixed at 23,68,926 metric tons of paddy this year in these districts. Of the total 4,00,194 hectares were brought under local variety and rest under Upshi variety of Aman. The district-wise break-up is 1,37,377 hectares in Barisal, 72,229 hectares in Pirojpur, 57,215 hectares in Jhalakati, 2,14,980 hectares in Patuakhali, 97,523 hectares in Barguna, 1,59,996 hectares in Bhola, 48,958 hectares in Faridpur, 41,078 hectares in Madaripur, 54,791 hectares in Gopalganj, 43,596 hectares in Rajbari and 37,017 hectares in Shariatpur.

Workshop on population control

MAGURA, Aug 12: A day-long workshop on population control, family planning and health service was held here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The workshop was organised by Magura Family Welfare Association, a local NGO. It was participated by Pourashava ward commissioners, journalists, social workers, field workers of the department of Health and Family Planning.

CHTDB organised workshop held

BELAICHHARI, (Rangamati), Aug 12: A day-long workshop on 'Role of People's Representatives in the Development Work of the Second Phase of UNICEF-aided Integrated Community Development Projects' was held at the thana auditorium of Belaichhari thana of the district on Monday, reports BSS.

Forty-six participants including union parishad chairmen, members, mauza headmen and Karbaris of the thana attended the workshop organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB). Project Director of CHTDB UNICEF-aided project, Mohammad Shahjahan Ali inaugurated the workshop on Monday morning as the chief guest.

2 commit suicide

JAMALPUR, Aug 12: Two people, including a woman, allegedly committed suicide in Sadar thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said Reazul Haq, 22, son of Yunus Ali of Hamidpur village, killed himself by taking poison at his residence. In another incident, Ayesha Begum, 35, of Shikura village took her own life by hanging herself from a tree at dead of night. Separate UD cases were filed.

1350 get old age allowance

JAMALPUR Aug 12: One thousand three hundred fifty old men and women above 60 years old from 15 union parishads of Jamalpur sadar thana received old-age allowance introduced by the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

A meeting was held in this connection at Jamalpur Public Hall. Rezaul Karim Hira, MP, was present as the chief guest. Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur Achyuta Pada Goswami was the special guest while sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer, Zahid Husain presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department Jamalpur and chairperson of district Jatiya Mahila Sangstha and Mahila Awami League, Begum Salma Akhter.

Youth electrocuted

JHENIDAH, Aug 12: A youth was electrocuted at Katlagari village under Shailakupa thana of the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said the victim, identified as Parimal, 18, son of the Kutishar, died on the spot as a live electric wire fell upon him when he was fishing in a canal of the village. A case was filed with the police.

Afforestation programme in Naogaon

NAOGAON, Aug 12: Barendra Development Project has undertaken a programme for planting 53,000 saplings in the ongoing season in Dhamirhat thana of the district, reports UNB.

With this end in view, the Barendra authority has already completed the process of growing the saplings in their own nurseries. It is learnt that the saplings will be planted on both sides of roads and banks of ponds of the thana as part of the national tree plantation programme.

Discussion meeting on Education Week

TANGAIL, Aug 12: A discussion was held on Monday at Bhasani Hall here on the occasion of the National Education Week '98, reports BSS.

Alhaj Abdul Mannan MP, a senior leader of the Awami League, was present at the discussion as chief guest. Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sattar Khan presided over the function. Prizes were distributed by the chief guest among the best teachers of school, college and madrasa and best scout and girl guides under Tangail district.

Birth anniversary

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 12: Awami League presidium member Abdul Jalil has said the country needs a freedom fighter like Sheikh Kamal in the present days, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a function organised by Brahmanbaria unit of Sheikh Kamal Smriti Parishad at Brahmanbaria to mark the 49th birth anniversary of Sheikh Kamal recently. Jalil said the present generation must be informed that Kamal was a great patriot, freedom fighter, sports organiser, art lover and social worker.

Work of office complex progressing

SYLHET, Aug 12: The construction work of the 10-storied head office complex of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System is expected to be completed by December next, reports UNB.

Sources said the construction work was started on 1.5 acres of land in 1996 with an estimated expenditure of Tk 16.6 crore. In the mean time, 96 per cent work has already been completed. After the completion of the construction of the head office, the network of the company will get further boost.



MANIKGANJ: Tejgunipara Peerma Jame Masjid Islami Library distributed relief materials among the flood affected people of Ali Nagar, Chandan Nagar, Raj Nagar, Zarnija, Waiz Nagar and Chandadar villages under Shingair thana in Manikganj. The relief materials included rice, biscuits, drinking saline and old clothes.

NAOGAON, Aug 12: The heavily damaged flood control embankment at Nazirpur in Badalgachi thana here may cause havoc in the area any time, reports UNB.

The condition of the dilapidated embankment worsened due to continuous rainfall and onrush of hilly waters from across the border.

Local people said, half portion of the dam was already destroyed by the river Jamuna last year and the rest 200 metre is in deplorable state threatening the Bilashari union of the thana.

People of the locality apprehended that a vast tract of land may go under water any moment if the damaged portions of the embankment are not repaired immediately.

The local leaders urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to repair the embankment to save the people from the imminent danger.

Our Barisal Correspondent Aroop Talukdar reports: Flood situation deteriorated further in Gournadi thana on Tuesday, as the onrush of flood waters have already submerged the Gournadi Pourasava area.

The Chief Whip is likely to visit the flood affected area soon.

Meanwhile, Overall flood situation in the district remained almost unchanged till Monday.

Besides, heavy downpour for the last few days aggravated the situation in some places where flood waters remained stag-

nant. Nearly 30 thousand people have been marooned.

According to official sources, nine people died so far of them in Gournadi thana area and the rest one in Agailjhara thana in four days.

The two thana areas have been badly struck by flood waters. A total of 35 culverts on link roads have also been damaged there.

District control room sources said, at least 53 unions of Gournadi, Agailjhara, Mehendiganj, Babuganj, Uzirpur, and Bakerganj thanas have been affected, official sources informed.

In the affected areas nearly 4 lakh people were affected more or less. More than 13,000 dwelling houses have been

damaged. 4,600 poultry birds have been killed or missing, 68 cattle have been killed. A large number of betel leaf on 165 acres of land have been damaged.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) here, seed-beds and standing crops on 14,775 acres of land worth Taka two crore nearly have been totally damaged.

Shrimp fries of nearly one crore taka have gone out from different shrimp-beds of Murali and Banaripara thanas of the district, AED sources said.

Fishes worth more than 30 lakh taka have already been washed away from fish hatcheries of Agailjhara, Murali, Babuganj and Banaripara thanas with the onrush of flood

waters during the last one week, the Fisheries Department confirmed here. A total of 63 educational institutions of Gournadi thana have been damaged severely. Out of them, 15 have been razed to the ground as many as 44 religious establishments, mosques and temples have also been damaged, official sources said.

Besides, 523 kilometres roads in which 31 kilometres are carpeted have been damaged in the flood affected areas. 34 KM embankment has been damaged in Babuganj and Banaripara.

The Forest Department said, saplings and seedlings worth Taka 25 lakh have been damaged due to stagnant flood waters in the affected unions of

five thana areas. UNB adds from Faridpur: Water levels of the three main rivers here — Padma, Arial Khan, and Kumar — registered a slight rise by three cm and flowing 43 cm above the danger marks during the last 24 hours.

The people have become panicky for fear of further sufferings with fresh onrush of water. Meanwhile, 52 unions of seven thanas here have been affected by the current flood that rendered hundreds of people shelterless.

According to the local flood control centre, 2,91,500 people have been affected and crops on 18,570 hectares of land damaged by flood.

It's a govt of musclemen, says Ershad

SATKHIRA, Aug 12: Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad has said the present government is no longer a government of the people, reports UNB.

"It has become a government of musclemen," he said while addressing a public meeting at the Debisharar football ground here today.

He said the death of Rubel in police custody in Dhaka and the killing of Jaheda in police firing at Baburabad in Satkhira have proved that there is no rule of law in the country.

The former President also criticised the government for what he said its failure to tackle the flood situation and keep its commitments.

"People have voted Awami League to power with a view to bringing a change in the country after the failure of BNP. But Awami League could not prove it steps worthy," he said.

Ershad also met the family members of Jaheda and assured them to taking steps to rehabilitate them.

He also demanded rehabilitation of the landless people living on government khas land and expressed solidarity with the eight-point demand of the local Landless Coordination Committee.

The JP chief asked his partymen to strengthen the movement to force the government to accept their demands.

Later, some 1,000 members of a minority community joined JP.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by JP Secretary General Nazim Rahman Monju, JP presidium member Syeda Razia Fayez, Shahadat Hossain, S M Salahuddin and Abdur Rahim.

30 leaders of Sylhet BNP withdraw resignations

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 12: All the 30 leaders including Abdur Razaque, General Secretary of Sylhet town unit of BNP, have withdrawn their resignations from their posts which they submitted three days ago.

In written statements, they said that they took the decision after a telephonic instruction from the BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Razaque, along with 29 others resigned from their posts of ward committees and the town committee following the degradation of the Sylhet city committee of BNP to a town committee last week.

Rape victim gives birth to a girl child at jail

HABIGANJ, Aug 12: A rape victim gave birth to a girl child at the district jail here on Monday, reports UNB.

The victim Khairun, 15, daughter of Ershadullah of Futarchar village in Nabiganj thana, was in the safe custody during the incident.

She was a housemaid at the residence of Liton Mia of the same village who raped her in last November on false promise of marriage.

But later Liton refused to marry her and her father lodged a case with the police. Following the case, police recovered the victim on Sunday and produced her before the court the next day.

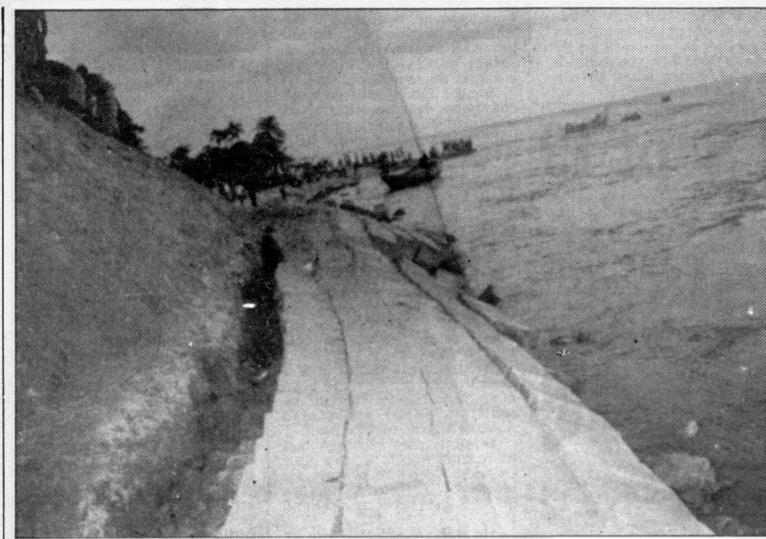
Separate incidents claim 2 in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Aug 12: Two people, including a woman, were killed in separate incidents in two thanas of the district on Wednesday and Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said, Abdul Wahed was killed by his in-laws at Mondori village in Baniachang thana on Wednesday following a previous enmity.

Safina Khatun, 30, mother of seven children, of village Gudamghati in Lakhai thana was allegedly killed by her husband Hajrat Ali on Thursday over a trifling matter.

Separate cases were filed with the police.



CHANDPUR: Chandpur Irrigation Project being eroded by the Meghna at Haimchar bazaar point in the district. — Star photo

Fresh water fish on verge of extinction in N-dists

NATORE, Aug 12: Some varieties of fresh water fish are on the verge of extinction as fries are being caught indiscriminately from different rivers defying government ban, reports UNB.

Fisheries Department here said the season stretching from Bengali months Ashaar to Ashwin (mid June to early October) is the breeding season for different varieties of fresh water fish.

Fishing of fries of some varieties like Kalibaush, Rupi and Katla up to 23 cm (9") from July to December is strictly prohibited by the law.

But fishing of these fishes have been going on unabated as the law enforcement agencies remain silent about the defiance in different parts of the district.

Local people and pisciculturists said that a huge number of unauthorised fry fishing traps have been laid in different rivers and other water bodies of Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj and Naogaon districts.

They said there are more than 2,500 such traps in these districts though the authorities gave permission to only about 50.

A local UP chairman said the violation of the Fish Conservation Act is widespread and the fishermen have been using current nets which is banned by the authorities for its adverse effect on the country's fish resources.

He alleged that the Fisheries Department failed to take any action even after repeated complaints.

Officials of the department here told it is difficult for them

to enforce the law in the vast areas of water bodies due to lack of adequate manpower.

They said those who were given licence to catch egg-bearing fish and fries are supposed to hand over their catch to the local hatcheries. Instead, they often sell those to the market.

Fisheries Department sources also said, there had been about 280 varieties of sweet water fish in the country. But about 200 varieties have already been disappeared.

Feud among locals Tense situation in Louhajang

MUNSHINGANJ, Aug 12: Police have been put on alert in view of the tense situation prevailing between two feuding groups of people in Louhajang area, centring round last Friday's violent incident at Mawa ferry ghat, reports BSS.

One minor boy lost his life, some vehicles were damaged and 10 persons were injured in the clash over the control of Mawa ferry ghat on Dhaka-Mawa road.

Officials of the department here told it is difficult for them

Large number of hardened criminals held in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Aug 12: Superintendent of Police, Netrakona, Satya Ranjan Barai held a meeting with local newsmen here Monday. The meeting discussed overall law and order situation of Netrakona district, reports BSS.

The meeting was informed that Netrakona police rounded up a large number of hardened criminals including robbers, kidnapers, fire arms holders and killers from different areas of 10 thanas in the district. Police also organised more than one hundred anti-crime meetings in different remote areas of the district to create awareness among the people on crime control method during the last seven months. As a result, the rate of crime declined in 10 thanas of the district and the overall law and order situation marked a significant improvement during the period.

Speaking in the meeting, Police Super Barai said, journalists have a wider scope to help police to curb crime and capture the offenders.

Termining the newsmen as a mirror of the society, he said journalists can play a vital role to free our society from crime, repression and exploitation.

The SP urged the newsmen to extend all-out cooperation to the police in curbing crime from the society.

Among others, general secretary of Netrakona Press Club Habibur Rahman Khan and district correspondents Faqirul Haq of BSS, Ruhul Amin of Bangladesh Television, Humayun Kabir Salim of Daily Khabar, Fazlul Haque Rumon of Banglar Bani, Mahbubul Kibria Halim of Inqilab and Hasanuzzaman Saki, general secretary of Reporters Club, Netrakona took part in the discussion.

Housewife stabbed by husband

MYMENSINGH, Aug 12: A housewife stabbed mercilessly by her husband was rushed to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Natibpur - Aricha ferry movement to begin in 2yrs

PABNA, Aug 12: Ferry movement between Natibpur and Aricha route is expected to begin within two years with the shifting of old ferry ghat from Notakhola to Natibpur, initiated by Shipping Ministry, reports UNB.

Ministry sources said, it has placed at Tk 20,35 crore project proposal to the Roads and Highways Department for construction of necessary infrastructure at the project site on urgent basis.

The project work includes, construction of connecting road, terminal, Bailey bridge, parking yard and dredging work.

After submitting the recommendation, an inter-ministerial committee, comprising higher officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, (BIWTA) and Pabna District Administration, was formed on February 23 this year to conduct a feasibility study to examine if there is any suitable site at downstream to shift the ghat.

The ministry, in its proposal, also referred that there was no suitable site excepting Natibpur, five km downstream of the river Jamuna.

Official sources said the government has already directed

the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take immediate steps to shift the ferry ghat by June, 2000.

With the commissioning of the new ferry route, it will take maximum one hour to ferry vehicles instead of previous three to four hours.

2 SSC examinees commit suicide

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 12: Two SSC examinees committed suicide after being failed in the SSC examination this year in Barisal district.

According to local sources, Harunur Rashid, 18, son of Abdur Rahim of Madali village in Uzirpur thana committed suicide by taking insecticide after hearing the news of his bad result.

Enamul Haq, 16, son of Abdul Kader, of Sangen village in Mehendiganj thana also committed suicide by hanging himself on Sunday as he received the news of his failure in the SSC examination.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been filed with Mehendiganj thana in this connection.

Best in Social Science group

From Aroop Talukdar



Rajib with his parents

BARISAL, Aug 12: Mohammad Nazmul Hasan Rajib, student of Social Science group of Barisal Cadet College became 'the best of the bests' among all the SSC examinees of this group in all the boards this year.

Thus he added a new feather on the bright cap of Barisal Cadet College. Barisal Cadet College also achieved a brilliant credential as 25 SSC examinees secured places including first position from Science group and three places from Social Science (Humanities) group this year. It is the best result of this college since independence. Rajib topped with 875 marks in total with six letters among the first place holders in all the boards in the country.

Rajib was born at Jurkati village under Nalchhity thana of Jhalakati district. His father Abdul Khaleque Fakir, a non-government senior school teacher and mother is a housewife.

"Actually, I've no interest in

politics, I like to be an army officer in future, said Rajib.

My hobby is reading books and playing cricket. It is a good result for me and I'm satisfied with this result," he added. Rajib was always inspired by his father, mother, relatives and the teachers of the college to acquire such a result in the SSC examinations. He is grateful to all of them. "We are too happy and satisfied as Rajib is our eldest son of three children. He secured the first position in this SSC exam" — told Rajib's parents.

Rajib studied for five to seven hours a day. All of his relatives and friends greeted him for his outstanding brilliant result. "I'll be trying to retain this sort of result in the next examinations", Rajib said. "I'm very grateful to my teachers of the Cadet College whose inspirations and guidance helped me much to acquire this good result", Rajib added.

Noakhali farmers passing days in anxiety Landlords, musclemen preparing to occupy disputed lands

NOAKHALI, Aug 12: Farmers in the region here are passing their days in great anxiety as landlords and lathials are preparing to occupy the disputed charlands, reports UNB.

During the harvesting season of Aman paddy, musclemen of a section of influential people start gathering in the char areas and take away the paddy by force rendering the poor farmers destitute.

The lathials during their arson and loot beat the poor farmers mercilessly and burn their homesteads leaving a number of people dead every

year.

Besides, the longstanding disputes related to boundary of the chars are yet to be settled by the court despite government's best intention. As a result, the landlords taking advantage of the situation grab the lands illegally, said a local leader.

According to official sources, there are about one lakh acres of disputed and khas lands in 25 chars in seven thanas of Noakhali, Laxmipur and Feni districts that cause bloodshed every year during the crop harvesting season.

Eviction of the landless

farmers by the joddars, demanding property of predecessors after a long-time and mismanagement in land allotment are the main reasons behind the dispute.

Moreover, a section of government officers and employees grabbed a vast tract of disputed land placing forged documents to the court depriving the real landless people, the villagers alleged.

The poor and landless farmers urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take necessary steps to allot the khas lands to them.

Lack of fund, price hike of fodder, cattle disease

161 dairy farms in Habiganj closed

HABIGANJ, Aug 12: Some 161 dairy farms in the district remained shut down due to lack of fund, price hike of fodder and outbreak of cattle diseases, reports UNB.

These situation aggravated due to lack of inadequate treatment facilities and shortage of necessary medicines.

The farms, set up across the district during the period from 1993 to 1996 by the local small and medium entrepreneurs to meet the local demand of milk.

Of these, 54 farms received government assistance to boost production, said the officials.

But the farms could not

maintain their production in the face of numerous problems.

Syed Ershad Ali, the owner of the biggest dairy farm in the district, used to supply about 300 litres of milk daily in the local market from his farm.

But now he has been forced to shut down his farm two years back. He started his Peer Bazar Multipurpose Dairy and Poultry Farm at Chunarughat thana in 1993 with only 15 cows that subsequently raised to 100.

But he lost his 40 cows due to the outbreak of cattle diseases in 1994. Ershad said local livestock officials could not pro-

vide necessary drugs to save his cows and finding no other way he was forced to shut down his farm.

The farm owners also faced huge price hike of fodder and other necessary materials to run the business.

At present there are no government dairy farms in the district.

At the instruction of the Finance Minister of the present government a proposal was given to set up a dairy farm at Puramanda area in Sadar thana at a cost of about Tk 100 crore.