

News snaps

3 of a family drown

GAIBANDHA, Aug 17: Three people of a family drowned on Friday evening in boat capsized at Satbel in Shaghata thana here on their way back home after attending a function, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Tofazzal Hossain, 50, his brother Haider Ali, 35, and son Abdul Momin, 10, of Nasrara-para village. Villagers said they were missing after the boat with about 12 passengers capsized. The bodies were later found in the beel next morning, said the sources.

Extortionists storm 8 houses

MEHERPUR, Aug 17: A gang of extortionists stormed eight houses one after another at Hizul village in sadar thana on Thursday night and looted cash injuring eight people, reports UNB.

Of the injured, five were identified as Rabjel, Saded Ali, Rahatul, Habibur, and Kawser and the identity of others could not be known immediately. The house owners said the toll collectors, numbering eight to 10, identified themselves as the members of an outlawed party and looted cash at gun point. They threatened to come for the next time to collect more subscriptions for the party from them. The terrorists also warned for dire consequences if they file any case with the police, the house owners added.

218 schemes executed under FWP

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 17: A total of 218 uplift schemes were executed under the Food for Works Programme (FWP) in the district during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said about 2,521 metric tons of wheat and rice were utilised for successful implementation of the schemes. According to official sources, 155 metric tons of food grains were utilised against 19 schemes in Austagram, 204 mts against 13 schemes in Bajitpur, 143 mts against 11 schemes in Bhairab, 173 mts against 14 projects in Hossainpur, 156 mts against 15 schemes in Itna, 278 mts against 20 schemes in Karimganj, 310 mts against 18 schemes in Katiadi, 281 mts against 40 schemes in Sadar, 156 mts against 18 schemes in Kuliarchar, 130 mts against 10 schemes in Nikli, 246 mts against 20 schemes in Pakundia, 162 mts against five schemes in Tarail and 127 mts against 15 schemes in Mitamain.

Child strangled

JESSORE, Aug 17: An angry mother strangled her 10-month old baby on Friday at village Sher Ali in Monirampur thana here following a quarrel with her husband over dowry, reports UNB.

Police said Usha Rani Biswas, 18, was severely beaten up by her husband Ranjan Kumar Biswas for her refusal to bring dowry of Tk 5,000 from her poor parents, following the incident, disgusted Usha strangled her child Bemona and left her husband's house. Ranjan filed a case with the police and Usha was arrested from her father's house on Sunday. Police also recovered the body of the victim and sent it to Jessore General Hospital for autopsy.

2 commit suicide

JAMALPUR, Aug 17: Two people including a housewife allegedly committed suicide in Sadar thana, police said, reports UNB.

Jamalpur General Hospital sources said, Rubi 25, wife of Mosaddek Hossain of Fulbaria in the town who took poison died at the hospital at midnight. The sources said another victim Abdul Halim, 18, son of Abdul Hye of Palisha village in Sadar thana died at the early hours on Friday when he was admitted to the hospital after taking poison on Thursday night. The reasons behind the alleged suicide could not be known immediately. Two separate UD cases were filed with the police.

Wheat allocated for FWP work

NETRAKONA, Aug 17: A total of 230 projects, taken under Food for Works Programme (FWP), of the government, will be executed in 10 thanas and three pourashavas under Netrakona district in the last fiscal 1997-98 year under the supervision of district relief and rehabilitation department. An official source said, the government allocated 3262 tonnes of wheat for implementation of the Food-for-Works Projects. The projects included repair and reconstruction of different kutcha roads and road-cum embankments, bamboo bridges and culverts and earth work in different schools, colleges and madrasahs. About 15 lakh people of the district are benefited following implementation of these projects, the official sources added.

Shelter for homeless

MAGURA, Aug 17: A programme has been taken up in the district to construct 14 shelters for the homeless people in the district, reports UNB.

District officials said the earth works of the project have already been started. The shelters, being constructed jointly by the district administration and the army, will house 140 destitute families of the district, said the sources. Of the shelters eight will be constructed in Baromgar and three in Mousha of Mohammadpur thana and one each in village Shingra of Shalikhana, Nanduali of Sadar thana and Horindi of Sripur thana.

190 posts of pry school teachers lying vacant

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 17: Some 190 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for long hampering primary education in all the 13 thanas of the district, reports UNB.

Of these, 42 posts are of Headmaster and the rest 142 are of Assistant teacher, said the sources in the District Primary Education office. The sources said five posts of Headmasters are lying vacant in Sadar, Mitamoin and Karimganj thanas each while four each in Kuliarchar, Nikli and Bhairab, three each in Hossainpur, Tarail and Bajitpur, two in Katiadi and one in Pakundia. Of the post of Assistant Teachers, 20 are lying vacant in Mitamoin, 16 each in Pakundia and Austagram, 15 each in Tarail and Itna, 13 each in Katiadi and Karimganj, 12 in Bajitpur, eight in Bhairab, seven in Hossainpur, five each in Kuliarchar and Nikli and three in Sadar thanas.

RAKUB to disburse agri-loan

NATORE, Aug 17: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has taken up an ambitious programme to disburse Tk 300 crore among the farmers during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The programme will be implemented through the bank's 300 branches in 16 northern districts, said official sources. Of the total amount, Tk 186 crore or 62 per cent will be disbursed among the small and marginal farmers. Other priority areas are: poverty alleviation, livestock and social welfare organisations, farm implements, agro-based small and cottage industries, cash credit and socio-economic development programme. The bank disbursed Tk 208 crore loan and realised Tk 226 crore outstanding loan during the last fiscal year, said the sources.

963 uplift projects implemented

HABIGANJ, Aug 17: Some 963 development projects were implemented in the district during the last fiscal year under the Rural Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair programme, reports UNB.

Official said, 4,993 metric tons of wheat were allocated for the projects implemented in eight thanas of the district under Test Relief (TR) and Food for Works Programme. Of the TR projects, 29 were in Ajmiriganj, 113 in Baniachong, 91 in Nabiganj, 69 in Bahubal, 71 in Lakhai, 113 in Sadar, 127 in Chunarughat and 135 in Madhabpur thanas. The Food for Works projects include 12 in Ajmiriganj, 36 in Baniachong, 43 in Nabiganj, 19 in Bahubal, 31 in Sadar, 16 in Lakhai, 18 in Chunarughat and 40 in Madhabpur thanas. Different schools, colleges, madrasahs, temples, mosques and social welfare organisations have been constructed and repaired under the programme.

541 uplift schemes implemented

PABNA, Aug 17: Some 541 uplift schemes were implemented in the district during the last fiscal year under the Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme, reports UNB.

A total of 926 metric tons of food grains were utilised to complete the schemes under its Food for Works Programme, official sources said. Thanawise break up of schemes are — 89 schemes have been executed in Sadar thana, 32 in Athgaria, 75 in Iswardi, 51 in Chatmohar, 31 in Bhargura, 34 in Faridpur, 78 in Santhia, 44 in Bera and 82 in Sujanagar thana. Besides, 32 schemes were implemented in Pabna sadar pourashava, 10 in Iswardi pourashava and five in Bera pourashava.

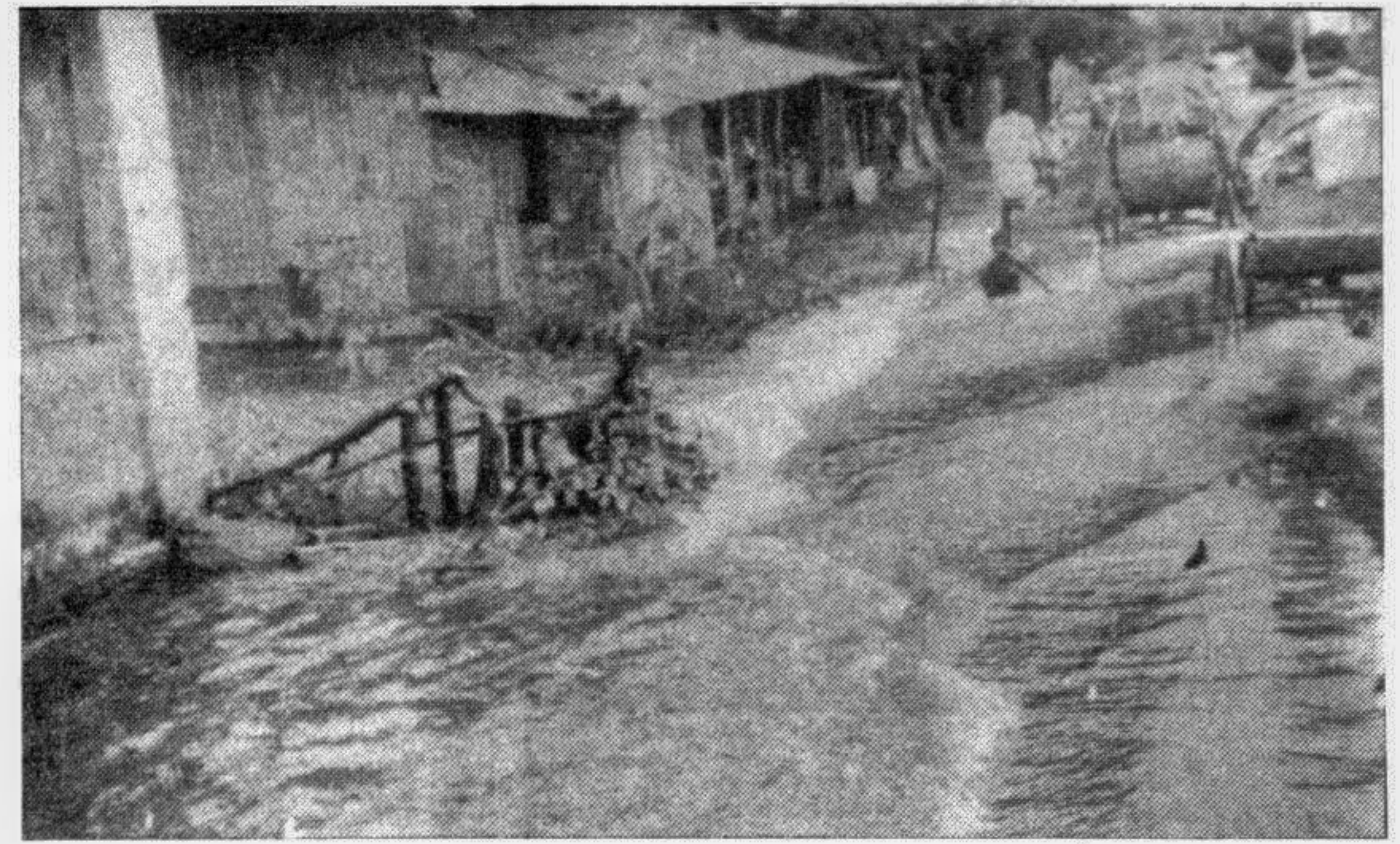
5,92,765 MT Aus paddy expected in Barisal

BARISAL, Aug 17: A total of 5,92,765 metric tonnes (MT) of Aus paddy are expected to be produced here in 11 southern districts under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone (BAEZ) during the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Sahriampur. According to an official source, a total of 3,56,603 hectares were brought under Aus cultivation this year in this region. The target of cultivation was fixed at 3,37,200 hectares which was exceeded by 19,403 hectares.



GAIBANDHA: Flood water overflowing the main road of the district town at Purbopara.



Gaibandha-Balashi road has gone under knee-deep water for the third time in this season. — Star photo by K M Rezaul Hoque

Situation worsens in Barisal, 14 die in Mymensingh Flood grips Gaibandha district again

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 17: Flood has gripped Gaibandha district again for the third time during this monsoon season. Nearly five lakh people in 40 unions have been affected anew by flood.

All the rivers in the district are still in spate and flowing above the danger mark. The overall flood situation in the district was improving last week. It has aggravated afresh with onrush of water from the upper catchment as well as due to incessant downpour.

Meanwhile, flood claimed two more lives in the district. One Rana, 16, of village Harinshingha in the sadar thana died of snake bite and another Alamgir, 15, of village Kholahati under the sadar thana drowned while he was taking bath in flood water.

On the other hand serious erosion of the river Brahmaputra has been going on unabated in several villages namely Resoolpur, Bhaserpara, Sayedpur — Khatiamari, Tanaghat, Kawabazar, Kalasona and Tinthoka in Fulchhari thana. Of them four villages are now on the verge of extinction. Over 300 dwelling houses, homesteads, trees and bamboo groves went into the river rendering 1,500 people shelterless. The erosion is still going on alarmingly.

With the sharp rise in water level Gaibandha — Balashi and Gaibandha — Shaghata road communication snapped again as flood water has been overflowing on the roads. Moreover, innumerable ditches and cracks have been developed along the flood ravaged road.

Many dwelling houses in Gaibandha Pourasava have been submerged by flood water.

Meanwhile, diarrhoea and waterborne diseases have been spreading in epidemic form at village Shamapur and Kalapani. One person died and 100 have been attacked with the disease. Of them, 25 persons have been admitted to Shaghata Health

Complex. Local member of parliament Advocate Fazley Rabbi and the district Civil Surgeon visited the diarrhoea and waterborne diseases affected areas. Some medical teams are working there.

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: Overall flood situation in four thana areas of Barisal district has deteriorated further due to continuous rainfall and receding flood waters from the upstream towards the Bay of Bengal through the southern districts under Barisal division.

For the last few days flood situation aggravated further inundating several thousand acres of cropland and submerging many dwelling houses, educational institutions, business establishments in 20 unions of different thanas. The worst affected thanas of the district are Gournadi, Hizla, Agailjhara and Babuganj. More thanas are also being affected in the district as the receding flood waters accompanied with non-stop rainfall has been continuing for days together.

Several thousand people of Mermania, Hizla, Gournadi and Kuchipatti unions of Hizla thana have been marooned.

Very meagre relief materials are being distributed in the affected areas. Local people informed, drinking water is very scarce as the flood victims are not able to collect drinking water from tubewells. In some places tubewells have also been submerged. People has no work to do, has no food as their crops have almost washed away.

In Khagerchar, Degreerchar, Gangapur, Baduri, Chirakhada, Laxmipur, Bharala, Bausia, Debua, Chharmemania, Induria, Chardurgapur, Daria and Gobindpur villages of Mermania union, nearly 6,000 people have been seriously affected. Seventeen villages of Kuchipatti union have also been inundated. As a result, houses made

of mud have been damaged or washed away in water.

Besides, due to strong current of the floodwater a huge area of Hizlatek is being threatened by erosion.

Nayan Banerjee, TNO, Hizla thana visited some eroded areas. Some relief materials including money have been distributed among the affected people, he informed. Thana Project Implementation Officer A. Gafur Gazi said, nearly 12,000 families have been affected by river erosion. An amount of Taka 20,000, some sarees, lungis, and rice have already been distributed among them, he said.

Besides, two and a half metric ton of rice, one metric ton of rice and a half metric ton of rice have been distributed in Hizla, Gournadi, Hamathapur and Dhukhola unions respectively. In Bausia 100 sarees, 100 lungis and four metric tons of rice have been distributed. In Mermania and Futapatti unions relief materials are yet to be distributed.

Nearly one thousand families of Alimabad area in Mehendiganj thana have become almost shelterless due to flood waters and heavy showers, informed M. Aziz Sveddi, local chairman in a statement recently. More than 70 per cent seed-beds have been damaged, he said.

On the other hand, flood waters have inundated huge areas of different thanas of Jhalakathi and Patuakhali districts. In Latua and Chakamala unions under Kalapara thana of Patuakhali floodwaters have entered into cropland through the damaged embankment. Many people of these areas have already taken shelter in the nearby cyclone shelters. Water level in the rivers near the sea has marked a sharp rise, local people informed. Low lying areas in and the adjoining areas of Jhalakathi district headquarter have already been submerged. Nalchhity thana area

of the district has been affected seriously, it has been stated in a meeting held at the Nalchhity Thana Parishad auditorium recently with Bimal Kumar Kundu, DC, Jhalakati in the chair. Local elite have demanded declaration of Nalchhity as a 'flood affected area'.

Everywhere flood situation is being aggravated due to incessant rainfall for days together. As the new moon is nearing rainfall may continue for more days, informed sources said.

In Bhola, some low lying areas in the adjoining areas of the town have been inundated. Zahurul Islam Naqib, Chairman, Kachia union informed, almost the entire area of the union has been inundated damaging the protection embankment. Relief materials are yet to come.

TNOs of different thanas of the district informed Syedpur and Hasannagar of Daulatkhan, Gaugapur of Borhanuddin and the Malanchara union of Tazumuddin thana have already been more or less submerged as water level of the nearby rivers rose.

Abdul Mannan, DC, Bhola informed, 20 lakh taka, one hundred maunds of wheat, 2,000 pieces of sarees and lungis would be distributed among the flood affected people if these are being allocated from the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. For relief materials message has been sent to the ministry earlier, he said.

Abul Hasnat Abdullah Chief Whip in the Jatiya Sangsad visited the river erosion areas in Babuganj thana on Thursday alongwith Talukder Abdul Khaleque, State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation. Earlier, they also visited flood affected areas of Gournadi and Agailjhara thanas.

Mossarraf Hossain Manju, a BNP MP in a letter to the State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation urged for allocation of adequate relief materials for the flood and river erosion af-

ected people of Hizla and Murali thanas.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent says: Flood has claimed 14 lives in the district and affected 141 unions out of 146 unions in all 12 thanas, according to the district administration official sources.

According to a survey conducted by the district administration, 989 square kilometres area of 141 unions have been submerged by flood water. A total of 6,78,985 people of 1,45,227 families have been marooned.

The flood also claimed 14 lives in the district. Of the victims, seven in sadar thana, three in Phalpur, three in Nandail and one in Gouripur thana. Most of the deaths have been caused by drowning. A total of 232 cattle also died in the affected areas.

The sources also said, 305 kilometres of kutcha roads have been damaged totally, while 1,890 kilometres damaged partially. A total of 69 kilometres embankments have also been damaged totally and 216 kilometres have been affected by the flood water. As many as 217 bridges and culverts have been damaged totally or partially.

A total of 2,591 houses have been damaged totally and 21,912 have been affected partially. Two hundred and fifty-seven educational institutions have also been affected, three hundred houses have been affected in the shoal areas due to river erosion.

According to District Agricultural Extension Department (AED) sources, standing crops on 13,793 acres of land have been damaged totally, while crops on 21,912 acres have been damaged partially.

Of the total, crops on 2,942 acres have been damaged in the Sadar thana, 5,950 acres in Dubaura, 1,144 acres in Phulpur, 1,766 acres in Gafargaoan, 1,625 acres in Gouripur

410 acres in Muktagachha, 7,000 acres in Trishal, 2,733 acres in Phulbaria, 2,193 acres in Nandail and 4,823 acres in Bhaluka thana. Seed-seeds and vegetables also have been affected by flood.

Local Public Health and Engineering Department official sources said, 667 tube-wells have been disordered due to flood water in the district.

District relief and rehabilitation official sources further said that 2,131 families have taken shelter in 12 flood shelters. Of them, 1,126 families have taken shelter in seven flood shelters in Mymensingh town and 1,005 families in five flood shelters in Gafargaoan thana.

The sources also informed, 284 metric tons of rice, 4,905 pieces saree, 200 pieces lungi, old clothes 500 pieces, biscuits 90 tins, and Taka 4,51,500 in cash have been distributed among the flood-victims.

But the relief materials are inadequate. Scarcity of food and drinking water is prevailing in the flood-hit areas.

Some families who have been living on Shombhujay cross-dam for about 25 days told this correspondent that they did not get any relief from the government or non-government organisations.

Besides, crisis of fodder is another problem of the peasants as stock of piles of fodder in the flood-affected area have been damaged due to long water logging.

Due to flood the price of daily essentials have gone up. Coarse rice is now being sold between Taka 17 to 18. But before the flood such variety of rice was sold between Taka 12 to 13.

Adequate relief goods should be supplied among the flood-hit people to mitigate their sufferings. The authorities concerned should take immediate steps to repair disordered tube wells to solve drinking water crisis and to prevent water borne diseases.



SYLHET: Flood water has submerged Habishaympur Government Primary School. — Star photo



Terafia Primary School of Pailgaon union under Jagannathpur thana of Sunamganj district under flood water. — Star photo

BAU classes from Sept 5

MYMENSINGH, Aug 17: The first year BSc honours classes of session 1997-98 of different faculties of Bangladesh Agricultural University BAU will begin from September 5, reports UNB.

The orientation programme of the newly admitted students will be held at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium on September 3. All the newly admitted students of different faculties have been asked to attend the programme.

The admission of a student will be cancelled if he fails to turn up within 30 days of the start of classes, said a press release.

Irregular train service along Khulna-Rajbari section

KUSHTIA, Aug 17: Passengers of Khulna-Rajbari section have been facing immense sufferings due to irregular train service, reports UNB.

The number of trains and compartments in the section are quite inadequate to cope with the increasing number of passengers.

Besides, the passenger coaches both in the inter-city and local trains are in deplorable condition. Very often first class and second class compartments are not attached

with the trains creating great inconvenience to the passengers.

They are compelled to travel in the over-crowded third class compartments and sometimes even in luggage vans and on the rooftops of trains. The sick, old, women and children are the worst sufferers.

Meanwhile, absence of waiting rooms, delayed service at the ticket counters and the number of ticketless passengers aggravated the situation.

Besides, the hawkers, toll collectors and smugglers multiply the sufferings of the passengers, local people alleged.

The compartments of the passengers are not kept clean and absence of water supply in the trains the sanitation service remain in mess almost all the time.

Smuggled goods like sarees, salt, sugar, fruits, cosmetics, crockery are transported regularly before the nose of the railway police.

Total Literacy Movement programme in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Aug 17: Netrakona district administration has taken up a programme of Total Literacy Movement entitled "Uzzibita Netrakona" in three thanas under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

The three thanas are Kendua, Barhatta and Netrakona sadar. An official source said, under the programme, the three thanas of the district could be free from illiteracy by February, 1999. More than 1,86,686 illiterate persons including females will get the facilities of learning in 6,223 adult education centres of the three thanas. Of the total adult education centres, 2,792 centres including 1363-female centres are set up in Netrakona sadar thana, 2133 centres including 1,000 female centres in Kendua thana and 12,98 centres including 597 in Barhatta thana.

A total of 6,233 teachers and 415 supervisors are employed to run these centres. The teachers will be paid Taka 500 and the supervisors Taka 100 per month as honorarium.

A committee has been constituted at district level with the Deputy Commissioner of Netrakona as chairman and Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) as member-secretary. Three thana committees are constituted with Thana Nirbahi Officers (TNO) as head of the committees. Similarly at union, ward and centre level, committees are also constituted.

Talking to BSS district correspondent of Netrakona, Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona Ali Akber Hussain Akhard said, the government has sanctioned Taka 5,13,54,020 for the implementation of the programme.

The DC said, the programme is not designed for only eradicating illiteracy lent also for other social welfare programmes like poverty alleviation, tree plantation and primary health care.

District administration and persons concerned are making relentless efforts with an expectation that a large number of illiterate people of the district would be able to read and write soon, the DC added.

Tk 26.55 lakh miniature Water Resources Development Programme

PIROJPUR, Aug 17: The government has undertaken a miniature Water Resources Development Programme in Kaokhali thana here in the current fiscal year at a cost of Tk 26.55 lakh, reports UNB.

Official sources said, the project is being implemented by LGED with financial assistance from the Netherlands government and Asian Development Bank.

The project works included construction of a 8.59 km embankment and excavation and re-excavation of 4.61 km canal. About 60 per cent works has already been implemented and the rest is expected to be completed by July next year.

With the completion of the project, communication and irrigation facilities at Nilti Chi-

rapur in the thana would be improved to a great extent.

Another report adds: Relief and Rehabilitation Department implemented 766 uplift schemes in the district during the last fiscal year under its Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme.

According to official sources, some 1,524 mts of wheat have been spent for the schemes, of which 273 schemes were under general sector and 493 under special sector.

Thanawise break-up of implemented schemes are — 112 in Bhandaria, 77 in Kaokhali, 235 in Mathbaria, 100 in Nazirpur, 134 in Sadar and 110 in Nesarabad while 26 in Pirojpur pourashava and two in Mathbaria pourashava.