

News snaps

Ready-made question papers on sale

NETROKONA, Sept 7: The business of ready-made question papers in the district is going on unabated hampering the standard of education in the educational institutions, reports UNB. Teachers said the main buyers of these type of question papers are the non-government schools and colleges due to their financial crisis. The printing of question papers involves a large sum of money as the price of paper and printing cost are high, said a teacher of a non-government school, admitting that the ready-made question is bad for the students. But another teacher said the students are the ultimate sufferers as the results of those schools and colleges in public examinations like SSC and HSC are very poor. Most of the ready-made question papers are prepared by non-teacher employees of the publishers who use to syndicate their products in many parts of the country. Naturally these sets of question lack professional standard hampering the standard of education, said the teachers.

Road repairing work completed

PABNA, Sept 7: The Roads and Highways Department has repaired and constructed about 50 kilometres of road in the district during the last fiscal year at a cost of Tk 725.50 lakh, reports UNB.

Besides, four bridges and four culverts were also constructed during the period, said the officials. The roads include Kashinathpur-Kazirhat road, Natakola ferry ghat road, Tania-Agharia-Chatmohor-Bhangura-Faridpur-Baghabari road, Pabna-Sujanagar road, Chinakhara-Sujanagar road, Ishwardi-Lalpur road, Chinakhara-Rhetupara-Bishwaroad-Shanthia thana road, Kashinathpur-Kazirhat road, Mathpur-Shanthia-Bera road, Atakula-Sujanagar road and Nagarbari-Natakola road.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque addressed recently at the freshers' reception of the Fine Arts Association. Dr Abu Taher, President of the association is also seen beside him. — Star photo

Tk 70 cr rural infrastructure uplift project

NOAKHALI, Sept 7: A rural infrastructure development project will be undertaken in the district at a cost of Tk 70.60 crore with financial assistance from the Switzerland government, reports UNB.

The project, approved at a meeting of Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), is scheduled to be completed by mid-2003, said official sources here. Swiss Development Agency will provide Tk 51.43 crore while the government will bear the rest amount for the implementation of the project. The project will be implemented in Sadar, Begumganj, Chakchil, Senbagh, Companiganj and Hatia thanas of the district to alleviate poverty, create employment opportunities, repair and construction of roads and local markets and to expand business in the rural areas.

Runner Editor's killing condemned

TANGAIL, Sept 7: Members of Tangail Press Club at a protest meeting held on Thursday condemned the killing of the Daily Runner Editor Saiful Alam Mukul. The meeting demanded of the authorities concerned to bring the culprits responsible for the murder of Mukul. The meeting also demanded exemplary punishment to the assailants, reports BSS. The meeting was presided over by Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury, President, Tangail Press Club.

Biennial confce of UP chairmen

SATKHIRA, Sept 7: The biennial conference of union parishad chairmen of the district was held in the deputy commissioner's conference room here on Saturday, reports BSS. The conference was presided over by Prof Abdul Khaleque, Chairman of Bharachimla Union Parishad under Kaliganj thana. The conference was followed by the election of the District Union Parishad Chairman Association, Chairman of Kulia Union Parishad under Debhatia thana and Prof Abdul Khaleque, Chairman of Bharachimla Union Parishad were elected president and general secretary respectively of the District Union Parishad Chairman Association.

Smuggled goods seized

SATKHIRA, Sept 7: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized various kinds of Indian smuggled goods worth over Taka 2.69 lakh from different areas of the district during the last three days, reports BSS.

The BDR members of 21 battalion of Satkhira raided Satani, Jhaudanga, Kayba, Ghona, Padma and Shakra border areas and seized various kinds of Indian goods smuggled in to Bangladesh.

The BDR said the goods included saree, salt, sugar, nylon net, bicycle, bidi and pomegranate. The goods were deposited to the Satkhira customs authorities. Non was arrested in this connection.

Man killed in road accident

JHENIDAH, Sept 7: A middle-aged man was killed in a road mishap at village Saduhati under sadar thana of Jhenidah district on Friday, police said, reports BSS.

Umbad Ali, 55, of village Saduhati was killed on the spot as the victim was run over by a speeding truck on Jhenidah-Dhaka highway. A case was filed with sadar thana in this connection.

Tangail MP visits flood-hit areas

TANGAIL, Sept 7: Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Local Government and Rural Development Alhaj Abdul Mannan MP, visited the flood and erosion affected Wide Char areas of West Tangail on Friday and distributed relief materials which included rice, flattened rice, molasses, biscuits and oral saline among the distressed. Speaking during relief distribution at different points of Hagra, Katuli and Kakua unions he urged flood victims to face the calamity with patience and courage. He also advised them to be careful in cultivating the 'Rabi' and 'IRRI' crops. Government is distributing necessary relief and has a long-term plan to help the flood-victims, Mannan assured.

Valuables worth Tk 2 lakh looted

JHENIDAH, Sept 7: A band of dacoits swooped on a night coach passengers and robbed their cash and valuables worth about Tk 2 lakh near Jhenidah town on Dhaka-Mecherpur highway on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Passengers said, the highway men numbering about 8-10 boarded the Darshana-bound coach 'Annanda Paribahan' in the guise of passengers and took control of the bus when it reached Gopalpur bazar in Jhenidah district. The dacoits beat up the passengers indiscriminately and robbed cash and other belongings. Three passengers were injured.

Training camp on cultivation

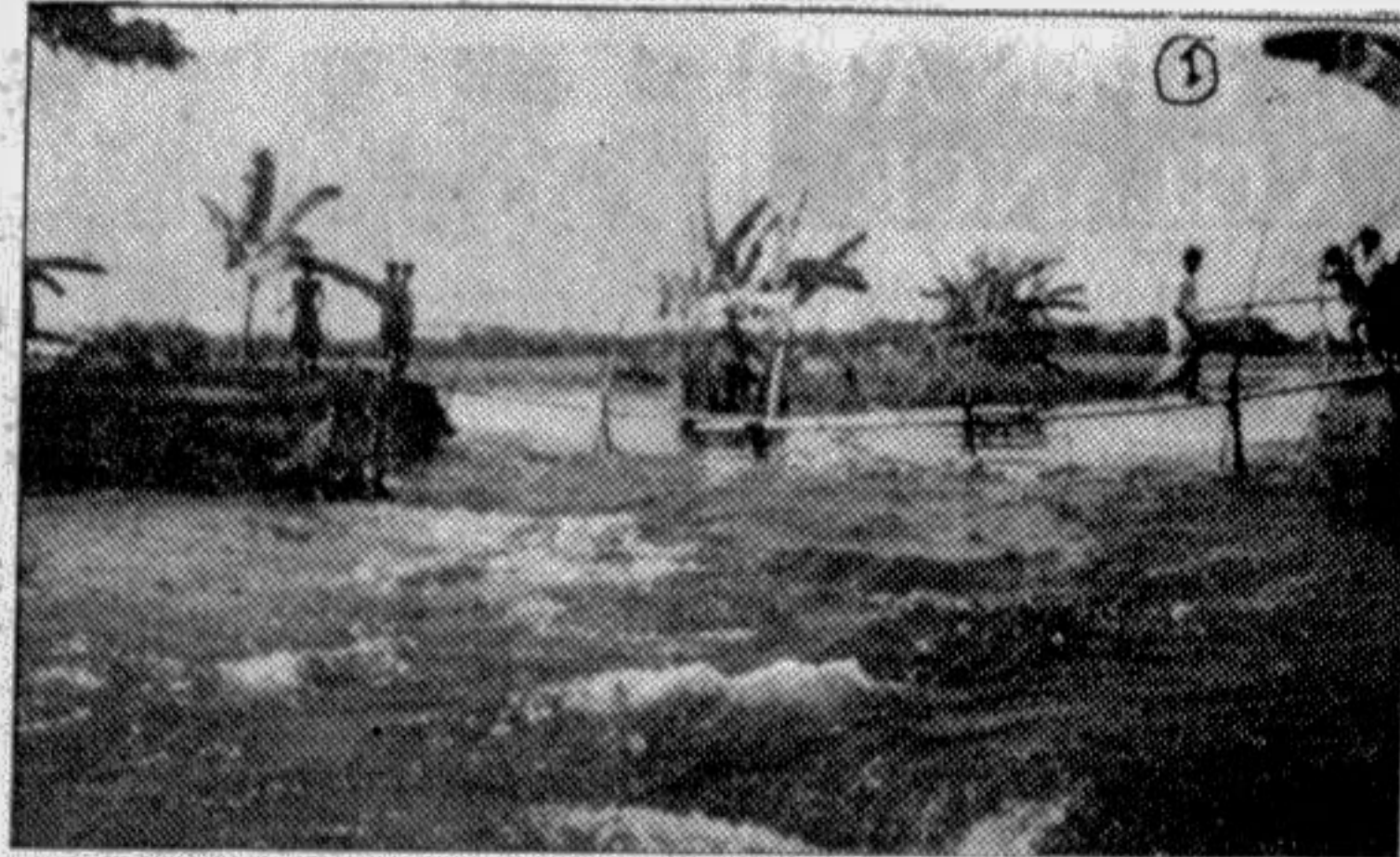
MAGURA, Sept 7: A three-day training camp on cultivation of transplanted Aman paddy in summer season concluded here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Organised by the Agriculture Department, a total of 33 block supervisors took part in the training held at the Sadar thana parishad auditorium. The participants have been provided training on cultivation of transplanted 'Aman' using modern technology, increasing fertility of soil, pest control, irrigation and using of organic fertilisers instead of chemical one.

3 including girl commit suicide

SATKHIRA, Sept 7: Three persons including a minor girl allegedly committed suicide in three thanas of the district recently, reports BSS.

The victims are Aya Bibi, 25, wife of Zinnath Khan of village Horchandrakul under Tala thana, Protim Nath, 28, of village Shidpur under Kaliganj thana and Kimbala, 12, daughter of Ukl Chandra Gaine of village Noyabad under Assaduni thana. All of them have committed suicide by taking pesticide. Several UD cases were filed with Tala, Kaliganj and Assaduni police stations.



BARISAL: (1) Marooned people cut off a portion of Agailjhara-Paisarhat Road to save themselves from the onslaught of flood (2) Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah distributing relief materials among the flood victims of Gournadi and (3) Submerged cinema hall of Agailjhara thana headquarters. — Star photo by Aroop Talukdar

Flood situation unchanged in Barisal, Madaripur

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 7: The overall flood situation in four thanas of Barisal district, two thanas of Bhola district and one thana of Patuakhali district remained almost unchanged due to stagnant flood waters and continuous rainfall.

According to official and local sources, the worst affected thanas are Gournadi and Agailjhara of Barisal where two lakh people in 12 unions are still marooned the 16 km embankments were heavily damaged.

More than 40 people were killed, some of them from snakebite in the district, administration and local sources said. A total number of 22 people died in Gournadi thana alone.

According to Md Fazlur Rahman, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRO), the flood situation remained almost unchanged causing heavy damage to crops, dwelling houses and link roads in the different thana areas of the district for the last two months.

As many as 16,094 dwelling houses and crops on 4,690 hectares of land were damaged.

According to official sources, the statement of deaths and damage in the district is: deaths-42, damaged dwelling houses-47,628, crops including vegetables on 47,834 hectares, bridges and culverts-60, roads-1,810 kilometres, embankments-109 kilometres, educational institutions-425 and religious organisations and establishments-335, cattle killed 238.

Meanwhile, Tk. 3,70,000, 468 metric tons of rice, 150 tins of biscuits, 200 sarces, 200 hungies were distributed among the flood affected people in different thana areas of the district.

Betel-leaves, fish in hatcheries and all sorts of crops and vegetables have totally been damaged or washed out, DRO said. Chief Whip in the Jatiyo Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah visited the affected areas and distributed relief materials among the victims for several times. So far Tk 4,25,000 has been allocated as

Gratuitous Relief and Tk. 9,54,710 have been allocated for Barisal district under Flood Rehabilitation Programme.

A total of 5 unions of Uzirpur thana have been engulfed by flood waters again, informed Md Alauddin, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Uzirpur.

Meanwhile, Madaripur town is still under knee-deep water, local sources informed. Shibchar, Rajoi and Kalkini thanas of Madaripur were also affected by flood water.

The Arial Khan river is still flowing above the danger mark beside Babuganj thana of Barisal district devouring several kilometre area along the riverside continuously.

UNB reports from Natore: The transplanted 'Aman' cultivation in the northern region including Natore is facing setback due to the countrywide prolonged flood.

Thousands of hectares of seed-beds have been completely damaged due to water-logging shattering the production target

in the region.

The farmers are facing problems due to shortage and high prices of seeds and seedlings. Besides, the flood water is receding very slowly hampering the efforts of preparing new seeds-beds. The incessant rainfall and onrush of waters from upstream have aggravated the situation.

The farmers are facing uncertainty and fearing acute food crisis due to widespread damage of transplanted 'Aman'.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said a total of 15,80,000 hectares of land have been earmarked to bring under 'T-Aman' cultivation in 16 northern districts during the current season.

Of them, 10 lakh hectares have been earmarked for hybrid varieties and 5.80 lakh hectares for local varieties. The production target was fixed at about 30,50,000 MTs of paddy in the region during the season.

Meanwhile, the farmers sowed seeds on about 80,000 hectares of land with the help of AED under its 'Seeds Exchange

Programme (SEP)'

The farmers of different regions including Natore, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Pabna and Sirajganj districts failed to get their expected production of 'T-Aman' due to drought during the last season.

A report from Rajbari says: The flood situation in Rajbari district turned grave with further rise of water in the river Padma.

Water Development Board (WDB) sources said the Padma is now flowing 143 cm above the danger level here crossing the mark of 1988 flood.

The road link between the district headquarters and capital Dhaka was snapped on Monday morning with inundation of the road.

WDB sources said the flood protection embankment at Katakhal near Goalanda has seriously been threatened.

Another report from Habiganj says: About 7,000 government and private fish farms have been damaged in eight

thanas of Habiganj district due to the prolonged devastating flood.

Official sources said over 91,000 fish fry of 6,820 private and seven government fish farms worth above Tk 45.51 lakh have been washed away by the flood waters.

The target of fish production in the district is feared to be hampered seriously, said the local fishermen and people involved in fish cultivation.

Official sources said the district is surplus area in fish production. But, they feared that there might be a serious crisis this year to achieve the production target and fulfil the demand of 19,836 metric tonnes in the district.

They said about 25 per cent ponds out of the total over 27,300 in eight thanas have been affected by the flood.

They, however, said there is a reserve of 25 lakh fish fries of different species in the district to support the fish farmers in overcoming the losses incurred due to the flood.

Over 15 pc kutchha houses of Derai thana damaged

'Protect dwelling houses of haor villagers from flood water'

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Sept 7: Most of the villagers in 95 remote villages of Derai thana in Sunamganj district have become helpless as they have been facing the devastating floods for the last 3 months.

They have no clothes and food now. Even many of them have been starving while many others are half-fed and fighting for mere survival. The people

Dharampasha, Tahirpur, Jamalganj and parts of Chhatak, Doarabazar and Sunamganj Sadar thanas have to spend much time in protecting their dwellings from the strong waves of water or from the erosion. It has become a regular yearly phenomenon.

But, this year the situation is more serious. The people are suffering extremely due to the

are now much worried to protect the main house.

The houses of Ashique Miah and of late Nimal Chan Das had already been devoured in haor waters. Haralal Das of the same village said, 'We are passing every day and night through great worries, sometimes, we have to guard by turn even at night; we do not have any place to go now.' Thirty houses in Tarol union had already gone into the water, they informed.

'Now the major problem we are facing is acute scarcity of fodder, it has become something dear, collection of water-hyacinth is also troublesome in the haor areas', the villagers said.

In village Bhatidal of the same union, 25 houses built by a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) named Gramin Janakalyan Samity, Derai had totally been damaged by the strong waves of the haor waters, the villagers said. The protection wall has also been dam-

serious erosion since the village is facing threat from both the sides. Maya Paul, 38, of the village while talking to the journalists said, 'kitchen of some houses had been destroyed. You will find many houses where people are staying along with cattle in the same room or hut. The condition of women and children is more serious.'

Abdul Wadud, 50 is a well-to-do farmer. But, now he is worried to protect his only dwelling house as his 2 dwelling houses had already gone into water.

Local sources said, about 1500 kutchha houses in Derai had already been damaged by the floods this year. The Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Derai said, 128 square kilometre area in the thana had been flooded while the number of flood-hit people is 1,15,251. The number of damaged houses is 8,345.

Many families took shelter in the Thana Parishad auditorium premises of Derai.



SYLHET: Most houses in the remote villages of haor areas of Sunamganj are at great risk of erosion due to prolonged flood. People are passing their days and nights amid tension. Photo shows some dwelling houses at village Tarol under Derai thana remained flooded for weeks together. — Star photo

are striving hard to protect their small homesteads.

While visiting some villages in the haor areas of Derai thana on Wednesday last, a group of journalists from Sylhet talked to the flood-hit people. They were seen worried enough and striving hard to protect their kutchha dwellings from the strong waves of gushing waters.

More than 10 to 15 per cent people have already lost their

flood for longer period, said a number of villagers. Many people have already lost their small houses in flood water, they said.

Sufferings of many had gone beyond description, said some villagers. 'We are now much worried due to shortage of space to keep the cattle as well as to manage poultry food', said Irfan Ali. They are now praying to Allah for protection of their



SYLHET: Some worried members of 3 neighbouring houses, which had been destroyed by flood water at village Rampur of Derai thana. They along with their cattle took shelter in the adjacent house, which is small one for them. — Star photo

aged. However, there was faulty construction, it is alleged.

Arati Paul, 45, of the same village said, '10 families had been rendered homeless due to erosion. Still we are at great risk. At any time there may be a

rumour premises of Derai.

People of the remote villages now need house-building materials, some local leaders said. There should be a long-term programme for rehabilitating these people, they asserted.

Flood causes price spiral of essentials

COXS BAZAR, Sept 7: The price hike of daily necessities including rice, onion and vegetables has hit the people across the district seriously, reports UNB.

The local businessmen said the present spiral is mainly due to shortage of supply as the flood situation aggravated in the district.

But the consumers alleged that a section of unscrupulous businessmen and wholesalers are deliberately increasing the prices of essentials though there is no noticeable storage in the district.

They said the price of onion has shot up more than double within a few days. It is now being sold between Tk 36 and 40 per kg as against Tk 18 only. The price of rice has gone up by Tk 2 to 3 per kg and the

coarse variety is now being sold at Tk 15 per kg. The price of boiled rice has also increased.

Local people said the traders have also increased price of flour though there is no reason behind it. The vegetable prices are also on rise.

They said the price of egg has shot up to Tk 6 per dozen though the prices of fish, meat, pulses and oil remained static in the market.

The price of Hilsa fish has come down slightly as the catch of this variety is satisfactory nowadays, said the traders and fishermen.

The Hilsa is now being sold at about Tk 50 per kg against Tk 70 to 80 earlier. But the local people alleged that the fishermen are selling 'Jhatka', Hilsa fry, defying the government ban.

Water-logging makes life miserable in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Sept 7: Water-logging in the town here due to lack of adequate drainage system has made the lives of the dwellers miserable, reports UNB.

The situation worsened further as a result of heavy downpour during the last few days.

According to the dwellers, slight rainfall, causes water stagnation at low lying areas of the town.

Most of the houses in low lying areas of the town remained submerged after heavy rain as there is no arrangement to flush out the water.

The pourashava, with a population of over one lakh people, is facing serious health problems due to the water stagnation.

A number of people have been affected with different wa-

terborne diseases like influenza, jaundice, diarrhoea and dysentery.

Illegal occupation of Bangsha canal and construction of houses on it, unplanned construction of roads and faulty drainage system are behind the problem, said the inhabitants.

Most of the drains have not been cleared for long and filled up with mud and silts.

Slight rainfall cause water-logging on vast tracts of Jamalpur, Dewanpara, Miapara, Sardarpara, Nayapara, Palthalia, Guabaria, Shekherbita, Bazrapur, Malgudam road, Stationpara, Baniabazar, Palpara, Bosepara, Mukundbar, Fulbaria, Munchipara, Daripara.

The town dwellers have urged the municipal authorities to take immediate measures to mitigate their sufferings.

Problems grip non-govt high schools in Narail

NARAIL, Sept 7: Most of the non-government high schools and madrasas in three thanas and two pourashavas of the district are beset with numerous problems hampering the education adversely, reports UNB.

Shortage of teachers, educational instruments, furniture, library and common room facilities, play grounds and hostels and financial constraints are some of the problems facing the institutions for a long time. The dilapidated condition of the school buildings is also a cause of tension for the teachers and students.

According to local education department, it has 118 high schools including 23 junior ones and 23 different categories of madrasas in the district.

Besides, two government high schools, it has 51 non-government high schools in Sadar, 33 in Lohagara, 24 in Kalia thanas. There are also 23 Dakhil, Fazil, Alim and Kamil madrasas here.

The government and non-government schools are facing shortage of over 50 per cent teachers and 80 per cent have no playground or 30 per cent no library facilities.

Only a few schools have books in their libraries, but these could not be used for want of librarian. Many schools have laboratories without equipment.

Most of the schools do not have adequate furniture and 98 per cent have no game teacher. At least 60 per cent schools are facing fund shortage.

Many school buildings are lying in dilapidated condition and lack of pure water aggravates the situation as most of the tubewells in the schools remained inoperative.

Local people urged the authority concerned to take necessary measures to solve the burning problems to ensure smooth functioning of the institutions.

Shortage of supply of diet, lack of necessary beds and other medical facilities are seriously hampering the treatment here.

The 31-bed Lama Health Complex is facing set back with 50 to 60 serious patients visiting the complex everyday for treatment.

Local people alleged that they have been suffering much in absence of adequate number of doctors at Sadar hospital, Thana Health Complex and the only Mother and Child Health Care centre here. Officials said the road mishap victims or the operating patients have to suffer seriously as there is no blood bank in the Sadar hospital.

Serious patients have to shift to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, about 100 km away from the district headquarters. A number of patients breath their last on the way, said the sources.

Shortage of doctors in govt hospitals in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Sept 7: The people of different thanas are being deprived of proper health services due to absence of physicians and lack of other facilities in the government hospitals and clinics, reports UNB.

Civil surgeon of the district told that only 20 doctors are now on duty out of the total posts of 68 doctors in the district.

Local people alleged that they have been suffering much in absence of adequate number of doctors at Sadar hospital, Thana Health Complex and the only Mother and Child Health Care centre here.

Officials said the road mishap victims or the operating patients have to suffer seriously as there is no blood bank in the Sadar hospital.

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They said the thana health complexes are also fighting to cope with the increasing number of patients and inadequate facilities.

One to die for killing wife

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 7: A court at Barguna recently convicted a man and awarded him death sentence in the sensational Kohinur Murder Case.

According to prosecution, accused Sanu Mia, 35, of village Shagharia in Amtali thana, of Barguna district chopped to death his wife Kohinur on July 2, 1997 for dowry.

Her father Noor Khaleque of Mahiskata in the same thana filed a murder case against Sanu after the incident.

After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Habibur Rahman handed down the judgement.