

News snaps

53,100 VGF cards distributed

COMILLA, Sept 21: The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation distributed 53,100 VGF cards among flood-affected destitute people in 12 thanas of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 32 kg of rice would be provided to each of the 53,100 families for the months of September and October. The ministry, however, allocated 1,699.20 metric tons of rice for the purpose. Some 3,600 cards were distributed among the destitutes in sadar thana against 15.2 metric tons of rice, 6,300 cards in Muradnagar against 201.60 mts, 4,800 cards in Devdwar against 153.60 mts and 2,400 cards in Barichang thana against 76.80 mts. Apart from this, 2,400 cards were distributed in Brahmanpara against 76.80 mts of rice, 4,200 cards in Chouddagram against 134.40 mts, 6,600 cards in Laksam against 211.20 mts, 3,300 cards in Langalkot thanas against 105.60 mts. A total of 4,200 VGF cards were also distributed in Homna against 134.40 mts of rice, 3,600 cards in Chandina against 134.40 mts, 4,200 cards in Barura against 134.40 mts and 7,500 cards in Daudkandi thanas against 240 mts of rice.

Tributes paid to Dr Ibrahim

PABNA, Sept 21: Speakers at a discussion organised by the Pabna Diabetic Association paid tributes to Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, noted physician and founder of Bangladesh Diabetic Association on the occasion of his 9th death anniversary recently, reports BSS.

Held at the office of the association the discussion meeting was presided over by M. Baby Islam, President of the Pabna Diabetic Association, Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Secretary of the association, Alhaj Mohammad Ismat, Joint Secretary Executive Committee members Abul Masud, Shamsul Huq, Abul Hossain Kalu and medical officer Dr. Ekhlasar Rahman discussed various aspects of the humanitarian services rendered by Dr Ibrahim for the treatment and rehabilitation of the diabetic patients. The discussion was followed by milad mahfil and Quran Khani.

Many boatmen turned jobless

NARAIL, Sept 21: Popularity of engine boat in the district has turned many poor boatmen of the traditional boats unemployed, reports UNB.

These poor boatmen hardly get the passengers since the introduction of engine-boats which consume less time and cost for ferrying people and goods. Although the boats still are a vital mode for movement of the people in the district, the traditional boatmen cannot afford to turn their boat into engine one due to abject poverty. Many of them have been forced to leave their ancestral profession failing to compete with the engine boat. Hundreds of boatmen have been engaged in ferrying people and goods to and from the remote areas and important business centres in three thanas of the district. During the rainy season, the riverine routes become the only mode of communication here.

An unofficial estimate showed that nearly 1,500 engine driven boats have been plying on the river Modhumati, Nabadanga, Chitra, Bhairab and Kazla and other water bodies here by fixing the irrigation pump engines which also make the journey hazardous some time.

3 beaten to death

SATKHIRA, Sept 21: Three people were beaten to death in separate incidents in the district on Friday and Saturday, reports UNB.

Police sources said, day labourer Mijanur Rahman, 35, of Elipur at Kalaroa poura area was allegedly beaten by his employer Alauddin to death when he demanded his daily wage Tk 12 only. Abdus Sattar, 40, of Ellarchar in sadar thana was beaten to death by some unruly youths when he tried to refrain the group from teasing his daughter Shamsun Nahar, 14, on her way to school. Balu, 24, wife of Eman was allegedly beaten by her husband to death for dowry at Katia in Tala thana. Meanwhile, Mithun, 12, of village Khanpur in Sadar thana died of hydrophobia. He was bitten by a dog some days back. Separate cases have been filed with the police.

Rampant stealing of transformers

COMILLA, Sept 21: Power supply in the district is being hampered due to rampant stealing of transformers and electric wires by an organised gang, reports UNB.

According to the official sources, 71 transformers including wires of Comilla Bidrut Sanity-2 worth about Tk 42.30 lakh were stolen from different places in the district till last June. Police and local people caught a few thieves and their accomplices red-handed. A total of 101 cases were filed with the police in this connection.

Piracy in Meghna

NOAKHALI, Sept 21: Pirates in the river Meghna threw in the water all 30 crew of two fishing trawlers and looted money, net and the catch, hilsha fish, near Char Gazaria early Sunday morning, reports UNB.

Police said 28 fishermen were rescued by fishing boats while two were still missing. Nurul Islam and Joyal Abedin, 2 fishermen rescued from the water, said the pirates coming in engine boat forced them to jump into the water. Wearing black mask the pirates were equipped with sharp weapons. Hailed from Matlab, Chandpur, the fishermen said about 100 incidents of piracy took place in Meghna estuary during the one month.

2 youths fall from roof of train, die

FENI, Sept 21: Two youths were killed when they fell down from the rooftop of a running train near Feni railway station here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Abdullah-al-Forhad, 17, son of Abdul Hye Chowdhury of Putiaila village in Langalkot thana and Mizan, 20, son of Hasan Mia, of Fakirbazar village of Trisal thana in Mymensingh district. Railway sources said the mishap occurred at 8:30am as they were hit with the overbridge of the station while travelling on the rooftop of the Chittagong mail train. Abdullah died on the spot and Mizan succumbed at the hospital. A case was filed with the police.

Minister distributes relief goods

CHANDPUR, Sept 21: Home Minister Rafiqul Islam Bir Uttam, has called upon farmers to start agricultural activities with a fresh vow by taking the opportunities announced by the government under the post-flood rehabilitation programmes, reports BSS.

The government will take stern actions against any irregularities or negligence in distribution of agricultural loans," he said while distributing relief materials among the flood affected people in Shaharasti thana here. The home minister said the concerned banks should be more active to distribute agricultural loans among the affected farmers. Islam urged members of the thana relief co-ordination committee to continue relief operations. He distributed relief materials, including rice, pulses, potato, oil and cash to the flood-hit people at different flood shelters at Unkila, Bijoypur, Alipur and Meher Railway Station in Shaharasti thana.

Alleged terrorist arrested

JESSORE, Sept 21: Police arrested a notorious terrorist from Dharmatola area in Kotwali thana here on Tuesday and recovered some hand bombs from his possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a contingent of police, led by SI Atiq Rahman, raided the area in the evening and arrested Shariful Mondal along with seven live hand bombs. Shariful, son of Sadar Ali of Baje Durgapur village in the thana, was wanted in connection with several murder, dacoity and arms cases.

Smuggled timber seized

BARGONA, Sept 21: Members of Bangladesh Navy seized 1000 cubic feet smuggled timber worth about Tk 3 lakh from Bishkhal river on Sunday morning, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the Navy patrol ship BNS Bogra intercepted the Swatpukthi bound trawler near Kalagachia LSD godown in Bamna thana and arrested Phool Mia, 35, and Nazrul, 28, in this connection. A case has been filed with the police.

Gurupukur mela begins

SATKHIRA, Sept 21: A month long Gurupukur Mela began on Thursday in Satkhira town on the occasion of the Vishwakarma Puja, a Hindu religious festival, reports BSS.

Gurupukur Mela is being held here every year for a long time in the month of September. A large number of stalls have been set up in the mela displaying various handicrafts made of earth, wood, cane, bamboo and other objects. Traditional cultural functions like folk songs, opera and puppet show are the main features of the mela.

5 dwelling houses gutted

FENI, Sept 21: A devastating fire gutted five dwelling houses in village Matua in sadar thana Saturday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the fire originated from kitchen quickly engulfed tin shed houses. The fire rendered two families homeless. Fire Brigade men brought the fire under control.



PABNA: (L) Dilapidated condition of a busy road from Pabna Bazar to Ananta Cinema Hall via Kalachandpara. (R) Pitiable condition of Pabna-Hemayetpur Road. — Star photo



Repair of damaged Pabna roads will cost Tk 3 crore

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Sept 21: Flood has caused widespread damage to pucca and kutcha roads, private houses, culverts, mosques, temples and educational institutions.

Mosharraf Hossain, Chairman, Pabna Poursabha, disclosed this at an exclusive interview with The Daily Star on Tuesday morning.

The chairman told that the Poursabha would require Taka 15 crores for repairing works and rehabilitation following complete recession of flood water. He further said, without government help and co-operation, it would be quite impossible to undertake such a gigantic task by the Poursabha's own fund. The rehabilitation work will have to be undertaken on an emergency basis, he told.

The poursabha chairman further said that full assessment of the losses was yet to be completed as the process of assessment was still going on by the elected commissioners and field-level workers.

The chairman, however, told that the assessment of losses suffered in the road sector has been completed. A total of 40 kilometres of roads and four culverts have been damaged either completely or partially.

Giving details of the damages in the road sector, the chairman said that out of the bituminous carpeted roads, 30 kilometres of 24 roads have been badly damaged.

They are: one km area of Nawab Sirajuddowla Road, two kilometers of Fazlul Haque Road, two kilometers of Haji Mohammad Mohsin Road, 1.5 kilometers of Nawab Alibardi Road, two kilometers of Moulana Mohammad Ali Road,

0.50 kilometres of tarash Zemindar Road, 1.50 kilometres of Arifpur Gorasthan Road, one kilometre of Nawab Salimullah Road, one kilometre of Moimam Road, two kilometers of Atua Hajjpara Road, two kilometers of Shalgaria riverside road, one kilometre of Tarak Pramanik Road, one kilometre of Haider Ali Road, one kilometre of Lep Sipat Road, one kilometre of Talukdarpara Road, one kilometre of Eskendar Ali Biswas Road, one kilometre of Mathpara Road, one kilometre of Shibbari Road, one kilometre of Embankment Road, one kilometre of Mandalpara Road, one kilometre of Atua Momenabad Road, one kilometre of Shaista Khan Road, one kilometre of Swajahan Road and one kilometre of Soleman Deputy Road.

Out of the kutcha roads, the chairman said that 2.5 kilometre-

tres of Sadhupara Bundh Road, one kilometre of Kuthipara government ghat road, one kilometre of Kalabagan Road, one kilometre of Etimkhana Road, one kilometre of Degree College Road, 1.50 kilometres of Singa Road, one kilometre of Wazed Ali approach road, one kilometre of Radhanagar Mathpara Road have been damaged either completely or partially.

About completely destroyed culverts, the chairman stated that two culverts of Haji Mohammad Mohsin Road and two culverts of Kuthipara Road have been completely damaged.

The chairman said that according to preliminary estimate, a fund of Tk three crores would be needed immediately for repairing of roads for restoring the road communication network.

RANGPUR, Sept 21: A century-old two storied building at the local Jaha Company square which was been declared unfit for habitation by the Public Works Department (PWD) in April last year, is yet to be demolished. It has caused a great concern among the people.

The building is occupied by some local people under proper allotment for a long period. But due to lack of proper maintenance works, the building developed cracks and has become unfit for human habitation following its dilapidated condition.

The Executive Engineer of PWD, Rangpur in a letter has requested the Deputy Commissioner (DC) to make arrangement for vacating the house.

The DC, Rangpur asked the PWD to arrange auction for demolition. The Executive engineer of PWD was appointed a member of the auction committee.

But, it is most surprising that this century-old dilapidated building has not yet been demolished for reasons best known to the authority concerned.

The building is situated at the busy commercial plot of the town. There are apprehensions that heavy casualty may occur, if the building collapses before its demolition through auction bid.

Punishment demanded

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Sept 21: Villagers of Barokhda union brought out a procession on Wednesday demanding punishment to their UP chairman Advocate Khabrudin who is now in jail on charge of misappropriating relief materials.

Flood damages property, crops worth Tk 150 cr in Laxmipur

LAXMIPUR, Sept 21: The flood this year has damaged property and crops worth about Tk 150 crore in the district, reports UNB.

Officials said 315 villages in 35 unions of three thanas and seven unions of two pourashavas have been affected by flood.

The flood had hit the district in two spells. About 400 square kilometers area have been inundated in the district as the water levels in the rivers Dakatia, Bhulua, Meghna and Rahmatkhali swelled abnormally.

Over 7.54 lakh people of 1.06 lakh families have been affected by the flood, officials said.

It also damaged 41,450 homesteads, 45 km metalled road, 1,575 km earthen road, 28 bridges, 454 culverts, 182 educational institutions, 73 mosques, mandirs and temples, 45 betel-leaf plantations, 15 km embankment, 57 government offices, 21,735 ponds and fish hatchery.

Besides, the flood water submerged crop lands damaging 'Aus', transplanted 'Aman', vegetables, seedbeds on 27,743 hectares of land.

The official death toll due to the flood is 23 while the unofficial sources put the figure at 47.

Many flood affected people have complained that they had not received any relief materials from either the government or any other agency.

No medical teams have so far visited the remote flood shelters where distressed people of many villages took refuge.

Water-borne diseases have broken out in an alarming rate in these areas, said local people.

UNB reports from Naogaon: Some 85 unions out of 99 in 11 thanas of the district have been affected by the unprecedented devastating flood.

According to the District Flood Control Room, 2 lakh people so far have been affected by the prolonged flood. Some 25,005 dwelling houses and standing crops on 25,000 hectares were washed away.

The flood totally damaged 20 bridges and culverts and affected badly 170 km of 'Kutchha' and 8.40 km pucca roads.

According to the sources, 30,000 flood affected people took shelter in 114 flood shelters and so far government distributed Tk 1.89 lakh and 293 mts of rice among them.

Besides, 316.8 mts of rice,

2500 pieces of saree, 119 pieces of lungi, 100 pieces of dhuti, 500 pieces of old clothes, 1000 metres of cloths and biscuits have been distributed among the flood hit people under the DGF cards.

UNB reports from Naogaon: The loss in the crop sector in the district due to the devastating flood has been estimated at about Tk 125 crore.

The Agriculture Extension Department officials said the farmers cultivated different crops including paddy on over 1.95 lakh hectares of land during the current season.

But, according to their estimate, crops on 47,830 hectares have so far been damaged by the flood this year.

Of these, crops on 31,790 hectares were damaged completely and on 16,040 hectares partially.

The officials said the production loss would be 80,290 metric tons of paddy and 9,100 metric tons of other crops.

The authorities have also estimated that Tk 40 crore would be needed for the post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme in the district.

BSS reports from Kishoreganj: A total of 47 educational institutions in 13 thanas of the district have been damaged by the devastating floods.

Most of the school buildings were eroded by constant hit of the waves during the period.

The flood damaged the protection walls of some of the primary schools, high schools and colleges in the thanas. Road-links with the educational institutions have also been snapped.

According to deputy commissioner's office sources, at least 1044 government and non-government institutions and schools and colleges were partially damaged by flood.

Housewife threatened by husband

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 21: Mosammat Rekha Akhtar's life has become insecure following a threat by her husband and others. She filed a case against her husband under Anti-Dowry Act and under Prevention of Repression on Women and Children before a court of magistrate.

None of the accused has been arrested although the case had been filed on May 4.

Nurunnahar Bawa, mother of Rekha Akhtar revealed this to this correspondent on Saturday. Rekha was slaying with her mother at village Char Dulal in Dulal union of Sujanagar thana since filing of the case against her husband Ratan Mandal, father-in-law Akbar Mandal, mother-in-law Musammat Sabila Khatoon and Hamida Khatoon.

Rekha filed another case against them following threat by her husband. Her life is now insecure. Her mother is also under threat.

Separate incidents claim 4 lives in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 21: Four people died in separate incidents in the district on Saturday and Sunday, reports UNB.

Three of the victims were identified as Vanu Sarker, 60, of Jhumapur village in Bajitpur thana, Swapan, 25, of Thatarakanda village in Pakurdia thana and Saifuddin, 25, of Moishakandi Bazar-para village in Sadar thana.

Police and hospital sources said villagers beat Vanu Sarker to death when he went to the house of Jamila Khatun, 50, of the village Tatalchar on Saturday evening allegedly for having an illicit affair with her.

Police arrested one Mohiuddin in this connection following a case filed by the victim's son Bijooy Sarker.

Swapan allegedly took poison to commit suicide following a family feud on the same day and was admitted to the sadar hospital where he died on Sunday.

Rickshaw puller Saifuddin was also beaten to death for his alleged involvement in stealing

a rickshaw. Police recovered his body from Maiskapon UP office on Sunday.

Police arrested four people including the UP Chairman and the rickshaw owner in this connection.

One unidentified man of about 35 died while he fell down from the rooftop of a running train near Bhairab station on Saturday.

Young man commits suicide in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 21: An unidentified young man allegedly committed suicide by falling under the wheels of a running truck when he had been refused food which he begged from a man at Nagorebari. He was also beaten rebuked by the same person.

The deceased wanted food from that person stating that he remained unfed for days together. The young man suddenly resorted to suicide in presence of many people.

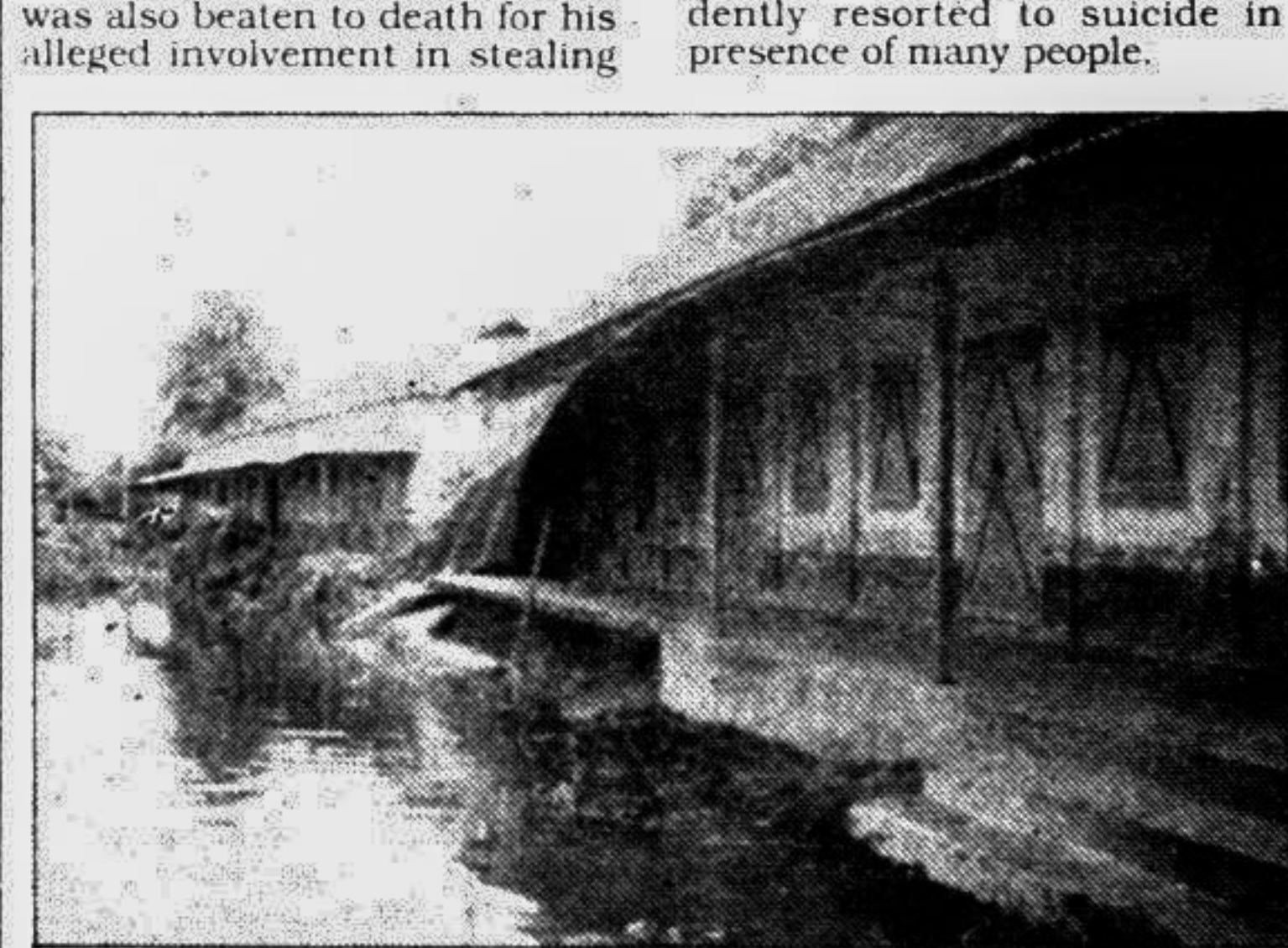
Another housewife raped

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 21: A 30-year-old housewife of Ballarpur in Sukpukuria union of Chowgachha thana was raped allegedly by an ex-union member named Nisar of the same village on her way back home from a neighbour's house in the night of September 17.

According to latest report, three days after the occurrence, the case was recorded with the local thana when it was brought to the notice of Police Super, Jessore on Sunday.

It is alleged that the local thana police refused to record the case and returned the victim when she came there physically to lodge FIR on September 18 last.



BRAHMANBARIA: Torrential rain has damaged a local students' hostel in the town. — Star photo



MAGURA: A total of 2 lakh people aged between 11 and 45 years recently took part in a final examination under Total Literacy Movement (TLM) of 'Bikoshito Magura', a socio-economic development programme at a remote village in the district. The people who were illiterate a few months ago learnt to read and write through 6,700 mass education centres in four thanas of the district under the programme. — Star photo

Relief activities in dists

PABNA, Sept 21: Samata, a non-government organisation, has taken up a programme to distribute relief materials among 15,061 flood affected families in Pabna, Sirajganj and Natore districts in its second phase of relief operation, reports BSS.

According to a press release issued by the organisation on Thursday, each family will get 20 kgs of rice, three kgs of pulse, five kgs of potato, one kg of salt and one kg of oil. Samata has been conducting the relief operation with the financial assistance received from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government. In the first phase of its relief operation Samata has already distributed relief materials including rice, pulse, salt and potato among the flood victims of these three districts.

A report from Comilla says: A ruti distribution relief centre has been started from September 17 in village Pandughar under Muradnagar thana of the district under the auspices of 'Sujat Ali Bhuiya-o-Nawab Ali Bhuiya Foundation'. Gano Shastha Kendra, Savar

is providing the financial assistance.

President of the foundation, social worker Mosharafuddin Bhuiya opened the ruti distribution centre. The centre is being run under the supervision of a 15-member committee with Faizuddin Bhuiyan as its president and in constant presence of two workers of Gano Shastha Kendra.

Obtains PhD

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Sept 21: Farida Yeasmin Bari, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery and Obstetrics, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), is the First Lady Veterinarian who obtained her PhD on Embryo Transfer in sheep from the University of Aberystwyth, Wales, UK under the supervision of Prof. Will Haresign.