

News snaps

Card phone service stopped

SHARIATPUR, Sept 25: Card phone service of the district has been stopped for more than two years as all the card phones went out of order, reports UNB.

Sources said the card phones started disturbing in 1996 after giving one year service and went out of order due to lack of supervision and overwhelming works. Local subscribers alleged that authorities did not carry out any measure after their repeated complaints. There were two card phones set up in each thana and three in district headquarters in 1995.

4 dacoits arrested

NAOGAON, Sept 25: Police arrested four members of a dacoit group from Saphar thana and recovered firearms from their possession on September 18, reports UNB.

They were identified as Saidur Rahman, Belal Hossain, Mohammad Sayed and an Indian national Swapan Shoren. Police said on secret information, they raided a house of Nasiruddin at Nurpur cluster village and arrested them. Two other members, however, managed to flee from the house, police added. The firearms recovered from the arrested people were on shutter-gun and one pipe-gun, one round bullet and some sharp knives. A case was filed with Saphar police.

Agri-rehabilitation programme

NATORE, Sept 25: District Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up an agriculture rehabilitation programme at a cost of Tk 22.47 lakh for the flood affected farmers, reports UNB.

According to an official source, 3,840 small and marginal farmers in six thanas will be brought under this post flood programme to cultivate crop for next season. The allotment will be used to buy fertiliser, seeds and other agri-inputs for the cultivation. Colossal damages caused by the devastating flood of this year has been assessed primarily Tk over 150 crore only in the agriculture sector.

Separate incidents claim 2 boys

JHENIDAH, Sept 25: Two minor boys were killed in separate incidents in Kalganj and Mohespur thana of the district on Sunday and Tuesday, reports BSS.

Family sources said a three-year-old boy Al Mamun, son of Serajul Islam of village Modhuganj in Kalganj thana drowned in a pond on Tuesday. The other victim Jamal, 13, of village Boga in Mohespur thana was electrocuted when he came in touch with a live electric wire in a field on Sunday. He died on the spot.

Work on diabetic hospital progressing

FENI, Sept 25: The construction work of a 25-bed diabetic hospital in Feni district town has been progressing fast, reports BSS.

A health department source said the government sanctioned Taka 2.25 crore for the construction of the hospital in the current fiscal year. The construction of the three-storey building will be completed by December next.

Discussion on life, works of Nazrul

MADARIPUR, Sept 25: A discussion meeting on the life and works of Kazi Nazrul Islam organised by the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission was held at its office here on September 17, reports BSS.

The discussion was presided over by Md Mahbubur Rahman, editor of the weekly "Shariatullah." Among others Shamsuddho and Mohammad Shahjahan Khan took part in the discussion on the life and works of the national poet. They said Nazrul's works inspired the Bengali nation in the War of Liberation and now it can help build a nation based on secularism and human values.

4 killers get life term

SATKHIRA, Sept 25: A court here on Tuesday sentenced four people to life term imprisonment for killing a teenage boy, reports UNB.

The convicted, identified as Gafur Sarder, Abdul Aziz, Yunus Ali and Altaf Hossain of Murakalia village in Tale thana, were also fined Tk 2,000 each, in default, to suffer three months more. According to the prosecution, the convicted people called Abul Kashem, 17, out of his home and murdered him June 27, 1992 as a sequel to a land dispute with his parents. After the murder they also tried to prove that Kashem committed suicide by taking endrine. A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them. After examining the witnesses and records Additional Sessions Judge Didar Ali Fakir awarded the punishment.

Loan disbursed for fish culture

GAZIPUR, Sept 25: Grameen Samaj Kendra, an NGO disbursed Tk 9.40 lakh loan for fish culture in Sadar thana of the district, reports UNB.

An official source said the NGO with the co-operation of the Fisheries Department disbursed the loan among the pisciculturists to boost fish production. The loans were disbursed in two instalments since last August. The loan recovery was also said to be satisfactory.

Scanning machine out of order

JESSORE, Sept 25: The only metal detecting scanning machine in Benapole customs immigration has been lying out of order for the last few years, reports UNB.

According to a high official of Benapole Customs, no step has yet been taken to repair the costly machine despite repeated reminders to the higher authorities. They said in absence of the most essential machine, luggage checking of the passengers is being delayed causing much sufferings to them. The Customs officials also said due to the government is deprived of the huge earnings every year.

School building work completed

BARISAL Sept 25: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education completed construction of 161 secondary schools at a cost of Tk 10,79,77,306 in four southern districts under Barisal Education Zone (BEZ) in the 1997-98 fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, Tk 6,10,48,514 was spent for the construction of 80 schools in Barisal, Tk 47,15,834 for 22 schools in Jhalakati, Tk 2,49,68,687 for 32 schools in Bhola and Tk 1,72,44,271 for 27 schools in Pirojpur. The construction of the school buildings began in 1993-94 fiscal year and was completed in phases in the last fiscal year, the sources said.

3 killed in road accident

RAJBARI, Sept 25: Three people were killed and two others injured in a road accident on Rajbari-Faridpur road on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Of the deceased, two were identified as - Abdus Salam, 21, and Mohammad Chumnu, 30, while identity of other could not be known. According to police sources, the accident occurred at Darpanarayanpur in Sadar thana when a truck and a tempo collided head-on in the night left the three dead on the spot. The injured were admitted to Faridpur Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Police seized the truck while the driver managed to escape. A case was filed with Sadar thana.

2 arrested for possessing arm

RANGAMATI, Sept 25: Police arrested two people from Old Bus Stand area in the town and recovered an LG and four cartridges from them, reports UNB.

They were identified as Rafiqul Islam, son of Emdad Miah of Lohagara thana in Chittagong and Meer Kashem, son of Nazir Ahmed of Chakoria in Cox's Bazar district. A case was filed with the police in this connection.

One killed in road accident

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 25: A bicyclist, Abdul Kuddus, 40, was run over by a Sylhet bound bus from Dhaka at Biswa Road Square on Kishoreganj-Bhairab road on Wednesday afternoon, reports UNB.

Kuddus of Rampur village in Hossainpur thana of the district died on the spot as the speeding bus dashed his bicycle at about 5 pm. Police seized the bus and arrested its driver Alauddin. The body was sent to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Relief distributed among flood victims

BANDARBAN, Sept 25: The district administration has distributed 100 tonnes of rice, 2,700 pieces of saree, 700 pieces of lungis, 1000 pieces of used clothes and a cash of Taka 3.75 lakh among the flood affected families in Bandarban district during the last two and a half months, reports BSS.

Official sources said, Taka three lakh, 2700 pieces of saree, 700 pieces of lungis and 1,000 pieces of used clothes have been received from Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund. The ministry of relief and rehabilitation allocated 100 tonnes of rice, 200 tins of biscuit and a cash of Taka 75,000.



BARISAL: Flood waters have already started receding from the affected areas of the district. In some areas flood waters have remained stagnant. Recession of water from these places will take more time. In such an area two children on board a raft have set for bringing drinking water. — Star photo

Acute scarcity of drinking water, essential medicine

Diarrhoea spreading alarmingly in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Sept 25: Diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases are spreading alarmingly in the flood affected areas of the district.

Scarcity of pure drinking water, food and essential medicines are prevailing in the affected areas.

According to the Civil Surgeon's office sources, about nine thousand people have been attacked by the diseases in the district during the prolonged flood for the last three months.

At least twenty people died by diarrhoea. Everyday 250 to 300 diarrhoeal patients are admitted to Matlab ICDDR,B hospital.

About 150 medical teams are working in the affected areas. The medical teams are also visiting in all 200 shelters of the district. Some flood-hit people

who took shelter in the camps complained that they were getting only a packet of oral saline as medical treatment.

Flood victims are now passing days in miseries due to acute crisis of food and drinking water.

Relief materials supplied by different organisations as well as government are not adequate to meet the requirements. About 13 lakh people of the district are affected by flood. Only 20 per cent people are getting relief. So far government has sanctioned Tk 29 lakh in cash and 3,910 metric tons of rice, sarees 6,198, lungis 1,249 for the flood affected people of the district.

Prices of essential commodities have shot up in the affected areas and have gone be-

yond the purchasing capacity of the affected people. Meanwhile, communication between Chandpur to Dhaka, Comilla, Sylhet, Chittagong still remained snapped due to damages of roads and bridges. The communication between the district headquarters to seven thanas are disrupted due to damages of roads, culverts and bridges. Rail communication is yet to be restored due to damage of a bridge at Balakhal in Haziganj thana of the district.

Another report from Meherpur says: Diarrhoea and other water borne diseases broke out in an epidemic form in flood-hit areas of the district with the recession of flood waters. District health office sources said at least 500 people have been affected with diarrhoea,

scabies and viral fever in the last one month.

A source of Gangni thana health complex said, the children and people of remote areas are worst affected.

The leader of a private medical team and acting manager of an NGO Ruhul Quddus Titu, working in the flood hit areas, told that the number of patients are increasing day by day in absence of adequate medicare facilities.

He said situation may turn worse if adequate measures are not taken immediately, they added.

The affected people have urged the authority concerned to ensure supply of medicines including oral saline packets to them without further delay.

Young girl abducted

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 25: A young gypsy girl was abducted and at least 15 gypsies including women were injured when a group of young men attacked a gypsy shed at Habipur paddy market in Salkupa pousa area recently. Police arrested seven youngmen for their alleged involvement.

According to police and affected gypsies, a gang of youngmen numbering 20 to 25 attacked the gypsy shed at about 8.30 pm and tried to about two young gypsy girls Jobeda, 14, and Rozina, 16.

When the gypsies tried to save their daughters, the youngmen started charging with sharp weapons. At this Jhothon, 38, her husband Moiammel, 48, son Alauddin 19, Shahin, 25, Gypsy leader Mati Mia, 52, Jobeda's mother sobeda and some others received injuries.

When contacted, Sailupa thana police said that Rozina was recovered from a nearest ditch while abducted Jobeda was yet to be rescued.

Procedures are going on to file case in his connection, police said.

IO of murder case suspended

MYMENSINGH, Sept 25: An investigation officer (IO) of a murder case was suspended for concealing the facts in the report, reports UNB.

Police sources said, a carrying mother Rokeya, 22, was beaten up mercilessly by her cruel husband and his accomplices at her father's house of Badesal Chapra village in Muktagacha thana on September 6.

She was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where she succumbed on September 8.

Rokeya was staying at her father's house due to her pregnancy.

Police said her husband Abu Taher was demanding Tk 25,000 as dowry from Rokeya's father which he could not fulfill.

Rokeya's father Joydul Abedin filed a murder case complaining that his 6 months' pregnant daughter was brutally killed by Abu Taher for dowry.

Fierce fighting between Royal Bengal, 2 villagers

SATKHIRA, Sept 25: A fierce fighting between a Royal Bengal tiger and two villagers ended with defeat of the tiger in a river near the Sundarbans on Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Shambhu, 25, and Ajit, 23, of Bethali village in Shyamnagar thana came under attack of the man-eater while they were returning home after collecting shrimp prawn from a tributary of a river near the Sundarbans.



BRAHMANBARIA: Road communication between Brahmanbaria and Sylhet has been restored on Friday. Road link along this route remained snapped for about a month due to flood. About 8 km long distance from Shahbazpur to Chandura has been damaged very badly. Transport vehicles are now plying at a great risk along this damaged portion on Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway. — Star photo by Sk Md Shahidul Islam

Diarrhoea in Kishoreganj district

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 25: Diarrhoea is spreading in an epidemic form in 13 thanas of the district claiming two more lives and affecting 1,100 others in the last 24 hours till Thursday, reports UNB.

Official sources, however, said one person died of diarrhoea and 594 people were attacked during the period.

The death claimed by unofficial sources was identified as Khushimou, 30, of Kamalpur village in Bhairab thana and Laila, 18, of Bajitpur village in Bajitpur thana.

With this, total death toll rose to 41 as per unofficial figure and 19 as per official estimation during last one month.

Flood Control Centre also said 104 people died of and 48,839 others were affected by various water borne-diseases since the beginning of flood on

July 13.

Civil Surgeon Abdur Razzak Chowdhury said 173 medical teams have been providing medical service to the diarrhoeal patients in the flood affected areas.

He also said the authority has taken actions against any irregularities and negligence by concerned people in rendering medical service to the flood affected people.

Mentionable that the Health Inspector in Hossainpur thana was suspended and five others including three physicians in Katiadi thana and one Family Planning Officer in Itia thana were show-caused due to their negligence in duties.

A report from Jhenidah says: Pneumonia has been spreading in six thanas of the district in an epidemic form claiming lives of 172 children

since January.

An official estimation also showed that more than 3,000 children of below four years of age group have been attacked by the disease and treated at different health centres and hospitals till mid September.

The rush of patients has been increased in Sadar, Shaylakupa, Harinakunda, Kalganj, Kotchandpur and Mohespur thana health complexes during the last eight months.

The sources said 80 per cent of the patients belongs to the age-group of one year.

However, unofficial sources claimed the death tolls was 250 people and 20,000 people are attacked against the official statistic.

The Civil Surgeon said lack of awareness about the disease is mainly responsible for outbreak of the disease.

Shariatpur BNP's relief programme

SHARIATPUR, Sept 25: Shariatpur district BNP has carried out an intensive relief programme in different flood-affected thanas of the district from September 17-19, said a press release here, reports UNB.

Relief teams, led by district BNP convenor and former minister TM Giasuddin Ahmed, distributed rice, pulses, salt, oral saline, water purifying tablets and safety matches among the distressed people in the flood-hit remote areas.

They also gave relief to the flood victims in the areas affected by the erosion of Sureshwar river.



JHENIDAH: Rickshaws are creating a chronic traffic jam in the district. — Star photo

Huge damages in different sectors

8,267 tubewells inoperative in 3 Barisal thanas

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Sept 25: As flood waters start receding, huge damages in different sectors have been assessed by different government departments in Barisal district.

According to the Executive Engineer, Road and Highways (R&H) Department, Barisal Division, 130 kilometres internal roads and more than 30 bridges and culverts were damaged either partially or fully in ten thana areas of the district causing a loss of nearly 12 crore taka during the last flood.

Meanwhile Tk. 2.50 crore has been sought as allocation on emergency basis for immediate repair works of roads and culverts particularly for the worst-hit Gournadi and Agailjhara thana areas of the district, he added.

Flood waters are still receding from vast areas of the southern districts.

Besides, the Divisional For-

est officer (DFO) here when contacted, said, one lakh seventy five thousand seedlings in different nurseries in the district raised on 9 kilometres area's stripe-plantations have been damaged which incurred a loss of more than 6 lakh taka. According to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) here, still now, flood waters in some places of Gournadi, Agailjhara and Uzirpur thana areas remained stagnant and in the flood affected areas a total of 8,267 tubewells have become inoperative.

District administration sources said, due to flood and stagnant waters in Gournadi, Agailjhara, Uzirpur and Babuganj betel-leaf plantations of nearly one crore taka on several hundred acres of land have been damaged. Four thousand one hundred and thirty cattle head in the district were killed during that time.

Separate incidents claim 4 lives in Magura dist

MAGURA, Sept 25: Four people were killed in separate incidents in the district last week, reports UNB.

Police recovered the body of Ayesha Khatun, 25, daughter of Hossain Biswas of Sharguna village in Shalikhtha thana, from Chitra river on Sept 15.

Family sources said, the victim abandoned by her husband was carrying following an illicit relations with Samir Hossain of the same village. She went out with Samir on September 13 and later her body was recovered from the Chitra river.

In another incident an alleged thief Kamalendu Sarkar 30, was killed in a mass beating after being caught red-handed by the people at Gobindapur village in Sreepur thana on September 14.

His body was recovered by the police and sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Two youths allegedly committed suicide at Panchkahunia village in Shalikhtha thana on

September 10.

Police said Aziz Mollah, 25, son of Amzad Mollah allegedly committed suicide following a family feud.

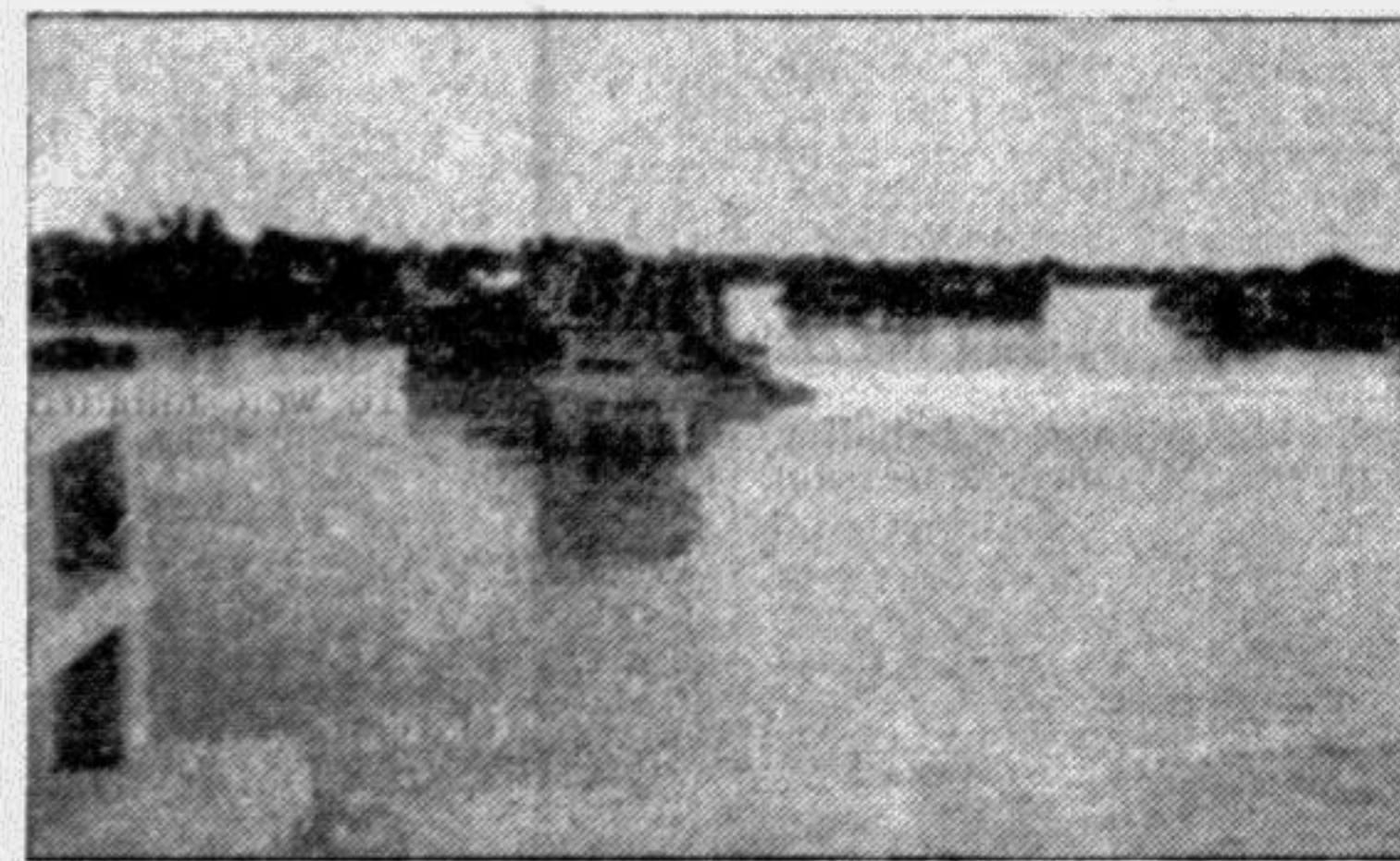
Nazma Khatun, 20, wife of Omar Ali of the same village also allegedly committed suicide following a conflict in her conjugal life.

Another report from Satkhira adds: Two people including a woman were killed in separate incidents in Kalaroa thana of the district on Monday.

Police said Abujan Bibi, 60, of Gajna village was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck while returning to her home from an office.

In another incident, Alamgir Hossain 25, of Mirzapur village died on the spot when he came in contact with a live electric wire while processing timbers by a late machine.

The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy and separate UD cases were filed with the police.



PABNA: A damaged bridge in Sujanagar thana — Star photo

Erosion renders 1.5 lakh people homeless at Ramgati

RAMGATI (Laxmipur), Sept 25: Erosion of the mighty river Meghna rendered 1.5 lakh people of 42,000 families in Ramgati thana here over the last 20 years, reports UNB.

According to the local elite, the authorities concerned did not take any measure to rehabilitate the homeless families and check the unabated erosion so far.

Char Abdullah union of the thana already went into the river basin of the Meghna and

the existence of about 35 villages in Kalkini, Falkon, Alexander, Char Algee and Char Gazi unions including Ramgati Thana Parishad are threatened by the continued erosion of the river.

A large number of shelterless people have been passing their in sub-human condition since long. At present the erosion has taken a serious turn with the recession of river water.



BRAHMANBARIA: Awami Jubo League leaders distributing relief goods among the flood victims in the district. — Star photo