

News snaps

Seminar on rheumatic fever

SATKHIRA, Oct 5: A day-long seminar on rheumatic fever was held at Shyamnagar Thana Health Complex on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The seminar, presided over by the thana health and family planning officer Dr Abdul Hannan, was addressed among others by Dr Rafiqul Islam, Dr Habibur Rahman, Dr Moktar Hossain, Dr Abu Musa, Dr Ziad Ali, Dr Tapon Kumar and pathologist Abu Daud. The speakers discussed about the causes of rheumatic fever and its proper treatment procedures.

Relief distributed

COMILLA, Oct 5: ATM Shamsul Huq, Chairman of Public Administrations and Reforms Commission on Saturday conducted relief operations in different flood affected areas in sadar thana here, reports BSS.

As part of his relief operations he distributed rice among 1,000 families which were badly affected by the century's worst ever deluge. While conducting relief operations Huq urged all to extend all-out cooperations to make post-flood rehabilitation programmes of the government a success.

Distribution of VGF cards planned

CHANDPUR, Oct 5: Home Minister Rafiqul Islam Bir Uttam said here that the government would distribute 1,000 VGF cards among the flood victims in each union in the affected districts with effect from October 1, reports BSS.

The minister was distributing relief goods among the flood victims of Shahrastra thana. An official handout said Chandpur district suffered the worst during the recent floods. The minister addressed several spontaneous gatherings during distribution of relief goods among the flood victims and visited various worst affected areas of Shahrastra thana.

Durga Puja celebrated

KUSHTIA, Oct 5: Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindu community was celebrated here with due religious fervour, reports BSS.

Durga Puja ended with the immersion of Durga on Thursday. One hundred and one images of Durga were installed in six thanas of the district. Necessary security measures were taken and no untoward incident happened anywhere in any mandal. Sweets were distributed and greetings exchanged among friends and relations during puja festival.

Problems grip passport office

JESSORE, Oct 5: The newly established regional passport office for seven districts cannot function properly due to lack of telephone connection causing problems to the passport seekers, reports UNB.

The office was inaugurated on August 23 with its headquarters at Jessore to give international passports to the applicants in the shortest possible period. But the passport seekers of Jessore, Kushtia, Jhenidah, Narail, Magura, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts said in absence of telephone connection, they are facing innumerable problems. Mentionable that there is another regional passport office for 10 districts of the Khulna division located at Khulna which is also plagued with manifold problems. Local people urged the authorities to arrange phone connection in the office immediately for rendering better service to the people.

Vegetable cultivation programme

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 5: A massive scheme has been undertaken in Hatibandha thana for vegetable cultivation at the house premises of the poor people as part of the post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) with the financial assistance from Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has taken up the scheme under a soft term loan programme. According to official sources, Tk 21 lakh loan will be given to 300 farmers for banana cultivation and Tk 25 lakh among the another 300 farmers for vegetable cultivation. It may be mentioned here that the Hatibandha thana LGED already installed 630 tube-wells to ensure supply of drinking water and distributed 9,990 sanitary latrines among the people.

Husband killed by wife

JESSORE, Oct 5: A young man was strangled to death allegedly by his wife at Sheikhpur village in Keshabpur thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said, the victim Shahed Ali Sheikh, 27, of Kandi village in Kotalpara thana of Gopalganj district married Maksuda Khatun, 20, eight months ago. But due to her conjugal unhappiness she recently came back to her parents' house at Keshabpur and since then her husband tried to take her back. On the fateful day, he again came to his father-in-law's house but Maksuda picked up a quarrel with him and at one stage allegedly strangled him. Shaheed was rushed to Keshabpur Thana Health Complex where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Body recovered

KISOREGANJ, Oct 5: Police on Saturday recovered the body of a housewife from a beel here after nine days of her missing, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said Amina Khatun, 45, of Mohinanda village in the district was missing since September 24 while returning to the house of her husband. Villagers suspected that Amina was killed by her husband following a family feud. The victim's son Kajal filed a case with the police and further investigation was on.

3 killed in separate incidents

SATKHIRA, Oct 5: Three people including a woman were killed in separate incidents in the district on Thursday and Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Abu Taleb, 70, of Ghona village in Kaliganj thana was beaten to death by his younger brother Abdur Razzak as he denied to lend money to him. In another incident, a young housewife Nasima, 22, of Horodilla village in Debiata thana, was beaten to death by her husband for dowry. In yet another incident, Nasim Mollah of Iswaripur village in Shyamnagar thana was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live wire. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Boro cultivation programme

MAGURA, Oct 5: A total of 19,875 hectares of land will be brought under Boro cultivation in four thanas of the district during the current season, official sources here said, reports APB.

The thana-wise breakup of the target land in hectares: Sadar-7,850, Mohamadpur-4,350, Sreepur-822 and Shalika-822. The Agricultural Extension Department will distribute high yielding variety seed, fertilizer and insecticide among the cultivators. Besides, local Krishi Bank will provide hard cash as loans for them.

Aman on 29,829 hectares damaged

JESSORE, Oct 5: Aman crops on 29,829 hectares of land were damaged in the country's eight south-western districts in the recent devastating floods, reports APB.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (AED), Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur had been the worst affected districts. The district-wise breakup of the land in hectares is: Jessore-890, Jhenidah-2,434, Magura-3,000, Narail-1,905, Bagerhat-1,337, Kushtia-14,923, Chuadanga-2,500 and Meherpur-29,829.

Marginal farmers get fertiliser

MANIKGANJ, Oct 5: Distribution of cash money and chemical fertiliser among the marginal farmers affected by prolonged devastating flood has been started, reports BSS.

The distribution was inaugurated by the State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf recently. The state minister distributed the cash money and fertiliser among the farmers.

Tribal girl commits suicide

RANGAMATI, Oct 5: A tribal girl reportedly committed suicide by hanging herself with her scarf in a tree near her house at Farna, a jungle hamlet in Belachhari thana of the district in the early hours of Thursday, reports BSS.

The deceased was identified as Kapuri Tanchangya, 13, a student of class five of Farna Free Primary School. The step-father of the deceased lodged a case of unnatural death with Belachhari thana police, police sources said.

Dacoit with pipe gun caught

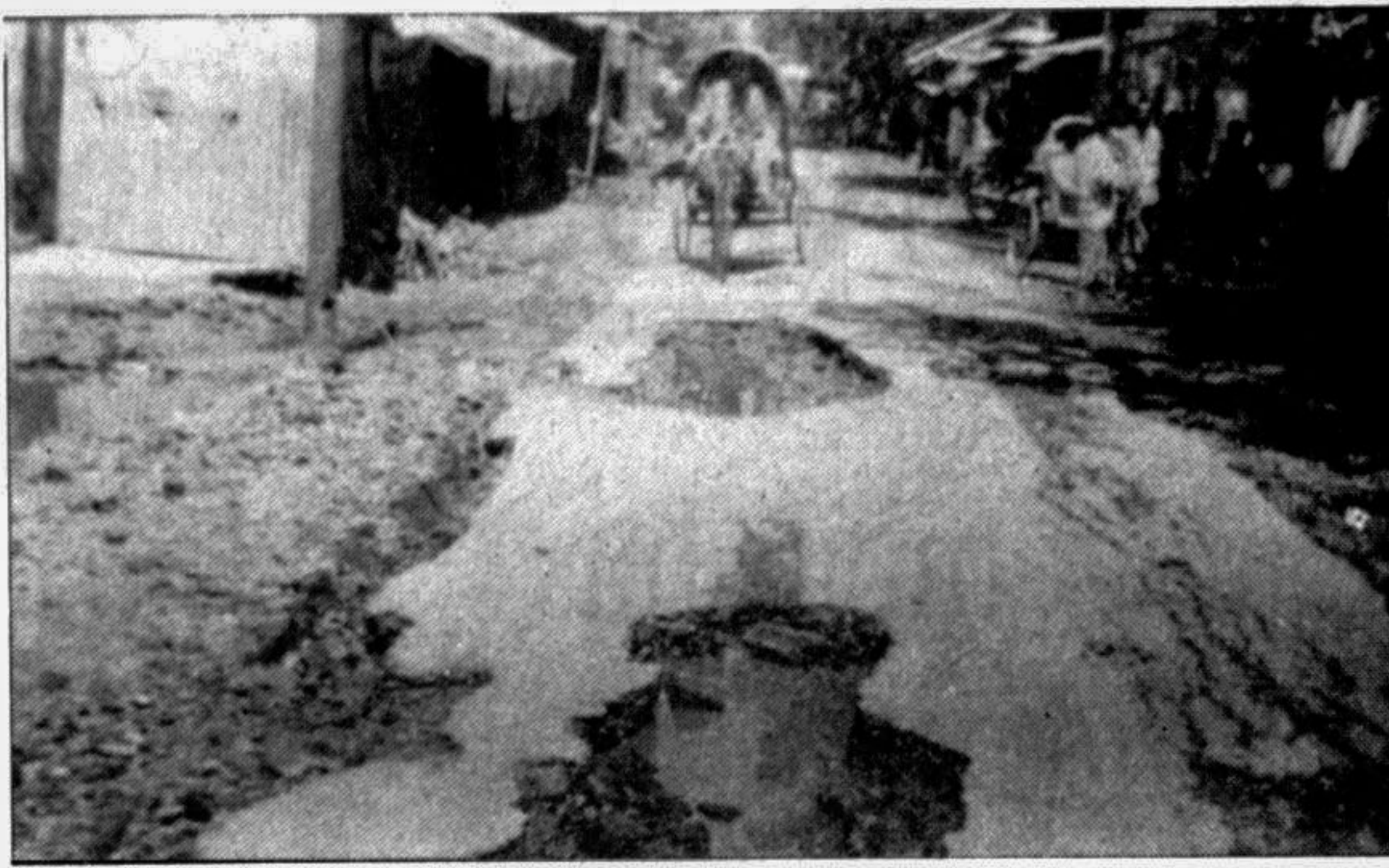
NOAKHALL, Oct 5: Local residents caught red handed a dacoit with a pipe gun in village Purbo Char Kakra in Companiganj thana late night on Friday, reports UNB.

Sohag, 24, was caught by local people while he along with his accomplices was committing dacoity at Yogibari. He was later handed over to the police.

46 edn projects being implemented

BARISAL, Oct 5: The Facilities Department has been implementing as many as 46 education projects in three southern districts under Barisal Education Zone involving Tk 8.05 crore during the current 1998-99 fiscal year, reports BSS.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Bhola and Jhalakati.



GAIBANDHA: (L) Innumerable cracks and potholes developed on Trimohoni Road due to prolonged floods in the district. (R) A flood damaged transplanted - 'Aman' paddy field of Nasratpur area in the sadar thana.



Agri-sector suffers over Tk 195 cr loss due to flood in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 5: Total loss in the agricultural sector caused by repeated flood this year in all 12 thanas of the district has been estimated to be about Taka 195 crore 2 lakh and 23 thousand, according to the District Relief and Rehabilitation Office sources.

During the first phase of flood various crops including 'Aman' seedlings on 7,970 hectares, T-Aman on 3,260 hectares, Broadcast 'Aman' on 63 hectares, jute on 1,260 hectares, vegetables and other crops on 2,130 hectares worth about Taka 69,52,64,000 were damaged.

During the second phase of flood, standing crops including T-'Aman', vegetables, seedlings,

seedbeds and other crops on 35,214 hectares worth about Tk 125,49,59,000 were damaged, official sources said.

According to the District Agricultural Extension (AED) office sources, standing crops on 3,725 acres of land were damaged in Dubaura thana.

5,212 acres in sadar thana, 4,880 acres in Phulpur, 5,234 acres in Galarganj, 5,576 acres in Gouripur, 4,337 acres in Muktagachha, 3,460 acres in Trishal, 5,603 acres in Iswarganj, 9,195 acres in Phulbaria, 5,821 acres in Nandail, 9,493 acres in Bhaluka and 6,712 acres in Haluaghat thana.

It is also mentionable, all 146 unions of 12 thanas have

experienced the devastating flood for more than two months. During the prolonged deluge 12,41,116 persons of 2,51,941 families were affected severely.

According to district AED sources, a total of 2,57,300 hectares of land were brought under T-'Aman' cultivation in the district. Of the total land 1,35,620 hectares were brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and 1,21,680 hectares under local variety. An official of the AED claimed that 96 per cent of local variety of the total target has been achieved in the district.

Meanwhile, under the post-

flood Agriculture Rehabilitation programme, the government has already sanctioned Taka 34,98,240 in the district to assist the flood-hit farmers.

The thana-wise sanctioned money for Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme is as follows: Taka 4,26,099 for sadar thana, Taka 4,13,977 for Phulpur, Taka 2,28,191 for Phulbaria, Taka 383,693 for Trishal, Taka 347,336 for Bhaluka, Taka 3,94,793 for Galarganj, Taka 2,26,180 for Nandail, Taka 2,62,117 for Iswarganj, Taka 1,95,881 for Dubaura, Taka 2,57,473 for Haluaghat and Taka 1,78,716 for Gouripur thana, said district AED official sources.

Fish resources worth Tk2.1 cr damaged by Netrakona flood

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Oct 5: Fish resources worth Tk 2.1 crore were damaged by the prolonged devastating flood in the district.

According to District Fisheries Department, Netrakona, a total of 3,951 ponds having the area of 1,15 thousand hectares of land in 10 thanas of the district were affected. A total of 29,30 lakh fries were washed away. The weight of fish was 608 metric tonnes.

The thana-wise break-up of damaged ponds is follows: 205 ponds in Netrakona sadar, 1,000 ponds in Barhatta, 89 ponds in Kaimakanda, 40 ponds in Mohanganj, 20 ponds in Khatiajuri, 250 in Madan, 500 ponds in Atpara, 500 ponds in Kendua, 1,277 in Purbadhala and 70 ponds in Durgapur thana.

District Fisheries Officer, Netrakona, Amirul Islam told this

correspondent that the target of fish production in the district was fixed at 850 metric tonnes. But the fish production of this year will hamper seriously due to damage of ponds caused by the prolonged flood.

One crore thirty five lakh fries worth Tk 50.56 lakh are crying need.

Physician stabbed

PABNA, Oct 5: A physician of the Institute of Public Health was stabbed by some unidentified assailants near Women's College crossing here in the early hours of Friday, reports APB.

Dr Abdur Rahman of Lahiri-para in the town came under attack while he was going to Pabna bus stand by a rickshaw at about 5 am. The miscreants stabbed him severely.

Diarrhoea, water-borne diseases claim 6 lives, affect 6,000 in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 5: With the recession of flood water multiple problems have gripped the flood affected remote villages in the district. The villagers who are the worst victims have been living in miseries due to crisis of food, pure drinking water and acute joblessness.

Most of the flood victims who were driven out from their homesteads following floods and took shelter on different high lands or embankments are yet to return to their roots. As most of their dwelling huts were either collapsed or washed away by the surging flood water, they are still leading a sub-human life on different embankments.

In Shaghata thana alone over 6,000 people have been attacked with different water-borne diseases since July. Meanwhile, diarrhoea claimed six lives in the area. The local health complex could not bear the high influx of diarrhoea patients. A total of 3,130 patients attacked with intestinal diseases in Shaghata thana during the last three months. However, every day huge new patients are being admitted in the thana health complex. Due to space constraints patients are flooring and sleeping in verandas.

The influx of beggars are in-

creasing day by day in the town. The increase is due to extreme poverty. The members of low income group like day labourers have turned into beggars now.

Meanwhile, the longstanding deluge caused the maximum damage amounting to Tk 18 crore 41 lakh 19 thousand to the infrastructure in the district under Local Government Engineering Department.

The damaged structures include roads, bridges, culverts, schools and growth centres. According to the information of LGED a total of 11,186 kilometres of Kutcha roads, 24 bridges and culverts, 323 schools and 6 growth centres have been completely damaged by floods.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reports: Diarrhoea and virus fever have been spreading alarmingly in different parts of the district particularly in Daulatpur thana.

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has attributed to the cause of the disease in the affected areas. About five thousand people have been attacked in 8 unions of Daulatpur thana.

According to physicians, the symptom of virus fever is high temperature, body pain and headache. The patients become very weak. There is no curative medicine for this fever, doctors

said. Children and women are the worst victims, they added. Hundreds of diarrhoeal patients were treated in the rural health complexes, sub-centers and hospitals.

Meanwhile, a large number of patients with stomach ailments are suffering in absence of mobile medical teams and for want of required medicine. They could not be moved to any hospital due to bad communication.

Ten deaths have been confirmed by the administration due to flood related disease, but more than one hundred persons have died of the diseases unofficially.

UNB reports from Sirajganj: Seven people died of diarrhoea and affected 400 others in a day in the district raising the death toll to 60.

But the Civil Surgeon office sources admitted five deaths and 350 affected during the period.

The water-borne disease has broken out in an epidemic form in Belkuchi thana where the death toll so far stood at 32.

A total 29,825 people were attacked by diarrhoea due to the flood, said the officials.

The unofficial sources, however, put the death toll to 72 and the number of affected people over 42,500.

Relief distribution continues

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 5: Different political and social organisations including non-government organisations (NGOs) are distributing relief materials among the flood affected people particularly in Gournadi, Agailjhara, Mehendiganj, Hizla and Uzirpur thana areas of Barisal district.

It may be mentioned here that in these places people were very badly affected by repeated flood and stagnant waters.

River erosion particularly in Hizla, Babujan and Mehendiganj thana areas of the district also multiplied the woes of flood victims.

Meanwhile massive Post Flood Rehabilitation Programme has been taken by the government to mitigate the sufferings of several thousand of flood victims of the district. Roads and Highways (R&H) Department here has already started repair as well as reconstruction works of the partially and fully damaged highways, feeder roads, culverts and bridges in the Barisal circle. R&H departmental sources said, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has started repairing the damaged tubewells and replacing the totally inoperative tubewells in the flood affected areas in the district departmental sources informed.

Kushtia FPAB distributes free medicine

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 5: Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Kushtia branch has been continuing its week-long health care services to the flood affected people of Char-Thana, Char-Amlapara, Bhatapara, Kuthipara and Dhopapara adjacent to Kushtia town.

It has extended health care services to about 2,000 flood affected people and distributed medicines free of cost among them. District Project Officer Shaikh Akram Hossain and his assistant Abdur Rashid conducted the medical camp while Advocate ASM Aktaruzzaman Masum, General Secretary and Choudhury Murshed Alam Modhu, Assistant General Secretary of FPAB participated in the camp activities. It may be mentioned this camp will continue its programme for the next two months.

Faridpur roads need immediate repairing

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 5: Most of the roads in Faridpur Poursava are in such a sorry state that pedestrians find them too difficult to move. The recent floods have turned the situation worse.

Almost all the roads are broken and in very bad shape. As there is no pavement the people moving along the streets fall into awkward position whenever any rickshaw or car passes by sprinkling muddy water on them.

Most badly affected roads include Baniapara Sarak, Alipur Lane Road, College Road, Station Road, Thana Road, Mola Bari Sarak and the road running from Mujib Sarak to Government Saroda Sundari Mahila College.

All these roads have developed numerous cracks, holes and remain water logged following the floods.



FARIDPUR: BNP leader Akmal Ibne Yusuf distributing relief materials among the flood victims of Gazirtek in Char Bhadrasan thana.



BRAHMANBARIA: Brahmanbaria Poura Chairman Al-Mamun Sarker recently distributed relief goods among the flood affected people of the district.

Rural markets in bad shape

JAMALPUR, Oct 5: Rural markets here have been beset with manifold problems due to lack of infrastructure facilities causing untold sufferings to the buyers and sellers alike, reports UNB.

An official source said the government earned about Tk two crore every year as revenue from 115 hats and bazaars across the district.

But the people said no steps have yet been taken to renovate and develop these hats and bazaars.

Of the total markets, 34 are in Sadar thana, 10 in Sarishabari, 19 in Melandah, 13 in Islampur, 17 in Madanganj, 11 in Dewanganj, 9 in Bakshiganj and 2 in the municipality area.

The hats and bazaars lack proper sewerage and drainage systems, public toilet, dustbin

and shed for open sellers and small vendors.

Stinky environment prevail in and around the markets most of the time spreading various diseases.

Water-logging and piling up of filthy materials and wastes of the markets threaten public health as well as cause environmental hazard, complained the local people.

Both the sellers and buyers suffer seriously as most of the markets have no facility for easy movement of traffic to and from other important places in the district.

The sellers alleged that they are forced to sell their commodities to the middlemen at lower prices as they cannot carry their goods to the big markets due to shortage of capital.

Flood damages 6,252 houses in Gopalganj

GOPALGANJ, Oct 5: The devastating flood damaged 6,252 houses totally and 25,775 partially in four thanas of the district affecting 2,50,425 families, reports UNB.

Of them, 92,221 families took shelter on different flood control embankments, high land, roads and educational institutions.

Flood control room sources said 19 people died of flood related causes like snake bite, drowning and house collapse.

Standing crops including seed-beds on 25,092 hectares of land went under flood water totally while 18,778 hectares partially.

Some 30-km road completely, 42-km partially, 18 bridges completely and 42 bridges and culverts partly, 43 educational institutes completely and 34 partly were damaged.

300 mt of fish washed away by Bogra flood

BOGRA, Oct 5: Valuables worth Tk 123 crore have so far been damaged in the district due to the devastating flood, torrential rain and water-logging, reports UNB.

Official sources said 2.66 lakh people in 100 unions of the district have been affected by the unprecedented flood.

A total of 4,288 homesteads have been damaged completely and 20,770 partially. Standing crops on 18,120 hectares of land were damaged completely while 9,628 hectares partially.

Besides, 354 km road, 66 bridges and culverts, 190 educational institutions 65 telephone lines have also been damaged by the flood.

About 300 metric tons of fish from 939 ponds have been washed away by the flood.



BARISAL: Erosion of the river Meghna is going on unabated in Hizla thana area of the district.

53,800 VGF cards allocated for Natore flood victims

NATORE, Oct 5: The government has allocated 53,800 VGF (vulnerable group feeding) cards. Taka 31,57 lakh and 649 mt foodgrains for the flood-affected people in Natore district as part of the government's post-flood rehabilitation and rebuilding programme, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at a review meeting on 'post-flood rehabilitation and development' held on Sunday at the zilla parishad building, Natore.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinatunnesa Talukder attended the meeting as the chief guest. Administrative officials of the district, politicians, educationists and union parishad chairmen also attended the meeting.

The state minister said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina has been able to overcome the devastating flood situation in the country. 'Inshaallah, we would be able to make the post-flood rehabilitation programmes of the government a success,' she added.

Earlier, the state minister distributed cash, seeds of different vegetables and saplings among the small and marginal peasants at sadar thana under the government's post-flood rehabilitation programmes.

Another report says: District Agriculture Extension Department has taken up an extensive post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme in Manikganj district on the basis of first phase of assessment of damage caused to crops by the prolonged flood.

Under the first phase of the programme the government has allocated a total of Taka

40,00,350 to help the flood-affected small and marginal farmers.

Of the total amount, Tk. 7,00,511 has been allocated for sadar thana, Tk 5,35,013 for Singair, Tk. 5,50,405 for Sauria, Tk 5,52,452 for Ghor Tk 4,67,266 for Daulatpur, Tk 5,67,662 for Shibalaya and Tk 6,27,041 for Harirampur thana.

The allocation will help 6,990 small and marginal farmers in the district to cultivate transplanted 'Aman', 'Boro', wheat, vegetables and other winter crops.

The government has allocated additional Tk 1,00,000 for pulse cultivation in the district. Under the programme each affected farmer will be provided with chemical fertiliser like Dap and cash money of Tk. 405 to Tk 680 for purchasing seeds and seedlings.