

## News snaps

### Fish-loaded trawler sinks in Bay

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 6: A fish-loaded trawler sank in the Bay of Bengal on the night of October 30. The trawler was carrying fish worth more than Taka five lakh.

The loss included money, net, engine and other materials. The trawler FB Bismillah was returning after fishing in the deep sea, but it sank near Laldear char in the Bay amid heavy current and foul weather at about 10 pm on the fateful night. Six fishermen on board were rescued by a nearby fishing trawler. The sunken trawler remained untraced, fishermen who returned from the spot said.

### Agri-rehabilitation programme in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 6: The government has allocated Taka 61 lakh for agricultural rehabilitation in eight flood affected thanas. The programme is being implemented in three phases. Under the programme, about five thousand flood affected farmers will be provided with 'Rabi'-crop seeds, seedlings, fertilisers, spray machines and money. According to Agriculture Extension Department, the farmers will cultivate 'Boro', mustard, sweet potato and vegetables.

### Two arrested from hotel

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Nov 6: Kotwali thana police arrested two persons from a hotel at JC Guha Road of the town on the charge of selling dead hens.

Acting on a secret information police raided Hotel Tajmahal and arrested Mamtaj and Samsuddin when they were supplying 19 dead hens.

### Over Tk 5 cr drinking water supply project

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 6: Public Health Engineering Department has been implementing a project at a cost of Taka Five crore 89 lakh for supplying pure drinking water to Kushtia town dwellers.

The work has begun with the assistance of Kushtia Pourashava. The project include construction of overhead tank at a cost of Taka 67 lakh 50 thousand, construction of an iron removing plant in three places of the town at a cost of Taka Three crore 30 lakh, sinking of five deep tubewells at a cost of Taka 44 lakh and construction of new pipe line at a cost of Taka one crore 48 lakh. Work order of each work has been given to the respective contractors on October 29. When completed the project will benefit about two lakh people of Kushtia Poura area and its adjoining areas.

### Workshop at CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: An eleven-day workshop on "Bio-diversity and Protection" concluded at Chittagong University recently. The workshop was jointly arranged by Edinburgh University and Bio-diversity link project of Chittagong University.

Dr David Long, Scientist of Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh took part at the workshop as a specialist. Prof Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University and Dr M Atikur Rahman, Professor of Botany Department was present in the workshop.

### Boy drowns

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Nov 6: A boy drowned in the river Chitra in Shalikhtha thana recently, according to the family sources.

Masud, 10, son of Abdur Rauf of village Bashkhali in Shalikhtha thana drowned falling from a banana raft when he was fishing with his brother in the river, family sources said.

### Relief materials distributed

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Nov 6: The students of Rangamati University College have distributed relief materials recently among 550 flood affected families in villages Nabiabad, Moheshpur, Anantapur of Muradnagar thana in Comilla district.

The relief materials included rice, clothes and oral saline.

### Five injured in bus accident

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI Nov 4: Five passengers were injured recently in a bus accident at Shapchari in Rangamati.

The bus collided with the hillside rock and met the accident while coming from Chittagong. The injured victims are Moriyam Bibi, 40, Neu Marina, 40, Rina Akhtar, 35, Soronji Chakma, 48, and Abdus Sattar, 50. Local police and fire service men rescued the injured persons and the bus. The injured were admitted to Rangamati Sadar Hospital.

### 'Rhetoric' reviews book on newspaper

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 4: "Rhetoric," a debating and cultural organisation set up by the Department of Mass Communication, Rajshahi University recently arranged a book review ceremony of "Bharoter Sangbadpatri" written by Tarapada Pal at Ravindra Kala Bhavan on the campus.

Presided over by the convener of the organisation and a teacher of Mass Communication Department Kaberi Gayen, the book was reviewed by some students of the department. Sayed Iftekhar Ahmed, teacher of Political Science Department was present as a special guest.

### 54 bottles of rectified spirit seized

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Nov 4: Police and officials of the Narcotics Control Directorate in a joint drive recently recovered 54 bottles of rectified spirit from Kamal Homeopathy Hall of 'Dakghar' area in the town.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the shop in the evening and seized 20 litres of spirit. Owner of the shop has gone into hiding, but an employee identified as Selim has been arrested by the team during the raid.

### Rampant stealing of transformers

From Our Correspondent

KURGRAM, Nov 4: Power Supply in the district is being hampered due to rampant stealing of transformers and electric wires by an organised gang.

General Manager of Kurigram-Lalmonirhat Palli Biddyt Office, Nazibul Islam told this correspondent that 30 transformers had been stolen during the last two years from different places in the district.

### Movement of vessels becomes hazardous

PATUAKHALI, Oct 31: Movement of vessels between Dhaka and six southern districts has become hazardous due to emergence of innumerable shoals in the rivers, reports APB.

Some 75 steamers and launches have been operating along the routes, carrying passengers and cargo from the capital to different destinations in Patuakhali, Barguna, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Barisal and Bhola districts. Members of the crew said most of the vessels require a depth of at least eight feet. Emergence of shoals have made movement of passenger and cargo vessels not only difficult but also hazardous, they said. Shoals have appeared at various points along the route including Lahafia, Muradia, Lebukhali, Dapadbia, Karkhana, Hizla, Badartuni, Muradia, Moulavirhat, Sholarmukh, Baushia, Patirmukh, Gakhhan and Haturia.



CHITTAGONG: (Left to right) David Long, scientist of Royal Botanical Garden of Edinburgh made a courtesy call on Prof Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University at his office recently. Prof Mahbubul Haq Majumder, Registrar of the university was also present there. — Star photo.



MAGURA: Farmers of Chandikhali village cultivating additional crops in a 'Mehagani' forest. Such forests were created along the shoal areas through massive afforestation programmes. — Star photo.

## Alleged corruption, irregularities in distribution of VGF cards

NAOGAON, Nov 6: The distressed people of almost all 14 unions of Manda thana have alleged massive corruption, irregularities and politicisation in distribution of VGF cards.

The villagers alleged that the authorities are mainly distributing VGF cards among their party men who are mostly not distressed depriving the genuine ones.

They also said the authorities distributed two cards against one person or a family and a card even to an immature child by excluding genuine VGF card holders from the final list.

District administration including the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation are not taking any measures against the accused people even after complaints submitted by them, they added.

Some UP members in several unions of the thana were also beaten up by local people following the irregularities and nepotism committed by them.

Another report from Narsingdi adds: There are irregularities and nepotism in distributing VGF cards in almost all unions of the district.

Legal action is yet to be taken against the chairman of Karimpur Union Council after he was found guilty in distribution of the wheat by a magistrate on October 19.

Some VGF card holders also lodged complaints against the chairman of Chinspur Union Council for misappropriation of VGF foodgrains.

Another complaint was filed with the Thana Nirbahi Officer against the chairman of Khidirpur Union Council for malpractice.

Local people including a Jubo League leader also complained against the chairman of Belabo Union Parishad in Belabo thana, Chandpur Union Parishad in Roypur thana and Putia and Mastipur Union Councils in Shibpur thana for corruption in distribution of cards and foodgrains.

Another message from Comilla adds: TNO of Brahmanpara thana filed a case against five people including UP chairman and Relief officer alleging less distribution of wheat by 2 kg per card.

A report from Laximpur says: A protest programme was brought out in Kanchanpur union of Rangpur thana here on Saturday protesting against corruption and nepotism of the Chairman in distribution of VGF cards.

The processionists said Abdul Khaleq, Chairman of the union, resorted to corruption and nepotism in distribution of VGF cards in the union and distributed less than the actual quantity of foodgrains to the card holders.

They said the Chairman cancelled a number of names of genuine distressed people and included some of his relatives in the list of Brahmanpara ward. Moreover, some of the card holder destitute people alleged that the Chairman gave them 14 kg of foodgrains instead of 16 kg.

They protested the incident and complained with DC and SP in this regard.

While contacted the Chairman denying the charged said some motivated people lodged complaints against him.

Destitute people of the ward demanded investigation into the matter and called for fresh distribution of cards among them.

BSS reports from Narayanaganj: The government has sanctioned 928 metric tons of foodgrains to distribute through Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards among 58,000 destitute and flood affected families covering 47 unions and two pourasabhas of the district under post flood rehabilitation programmes.

According to district relief and rehabilitation office sources, each of the selected VGF card holder will get eight kgs of rice and eight kgs of wheat per month till the next harvesting.

The list of the flood affected destitute families are being

prepared in co-operations with TNO chairman, members of the union parishad.

UNB says from Bogra: Flood affected distressed people are allegedly being deprived of foodgrains for want of VGF cards as they are yet to receive those from the district administration.

Sources said the government has sanctioned 95,000 VGF cards in the second phase of rehabilitation programme for distribution of 15028 metric tons of rice and wheat.

But the list of the distressed people could not finalised as yet due to lack of consensus among the administration, political leaders and public representatives, alleged the flood victims.

"We have failed to enlist our names in the list even after repeated requests to the officials and local representatives," lamented a marginal farmer who lost everything in the devastating flood.

Besides, it is also alleged that local MPs are not involved in preparation of the list of VGF cards.

Local administration sources said allotment of cards and foodgrains has been completed in thana levels although the distribution work is yet to be completed.

BSS says from Rangpur: A total of 68,900 VGF cards have been allocated for vulnerable groups in eight thanas and two pourasabhas of the district, according to District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO).

Each card holder will receive eight kilograms of rice and eight kilograms of wheat every month.

A total of 14,22,400 tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated against these cards under the flood rehabilitation programme of the government.

Thana wise break-up of VGF cards is as follows: Rangpur sadar 10,000, Mithrapukur 16,500, Pirganj-14,800, Pirgacha-8,500, Kaunia-5,200, Gangachara-12,900, Badarganj 10,600, Taraganj-5,900 Rangpur Pourashava-3000 and Hara-gacha Pourashava-2,300.

UNB from Kurigram reports: The government has distributed a total of 77,000 special VGF cards among flood-hit destitute families in 74 unions and one municipality in nine thanas under its post-flood rehabilitation programme.

Under the programme, the government has also allocated 1,232 metric tons foodgrains for the current month. Each VGF card holder will receive 8 kg rice and 8 kg wheat.

Of the total, 129.6 mts foodgrains have been allocated against 8,100 cards in Sadar thana while 238.4 mts against 14,900 card holders in Ulipur and 118.4 mts against 7,400 cards in Chilmari thanas.

Some 14,300 cards have been distributed against 228.8 mts foodgrains in Nageswari thana while 8,300 cards against 132.8 mts in Bhurungamari and 5,350 cards against 84.8 mts in Fulbari thanas.

Apart from this, 4,400 cards have been distributed against 70.4 mts foodgrains in Rajarhat thana while 7,000 cards against 112 mts in Roumari and 4,300 cards against 68.8 mts in Rajpur thanas.

The government also distributed, 3,000 cards against 48 mts rice and wheat in three wards of the municipality.



HABIGANJ: Suranjit Sen Gupta MP, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs recently distributed agri-loans among the farmers of Nagura in Baniachong thana. — Star photo.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Department sources said a total of 77,000 cards have been distributed in the district while a total of 9,98,414 people of 2,00,380 families in 70 unions have been affected by flood.

Local people urged the government to allocate more cards for the destitute people.

UNB says from Habiganj: At least 73,600 VGF cards have been distributed in flood-affected 77 unions and four pourasabhas under the special VGF programme here.

Official sources said the government has distributed 15,000 VGF cards in 15 unions of Baniachong, 5,000 in five unions in Azmiriganj, 12,100 in 12 unions of Nabiganj, 4,900 in seven unions of Bahubal, 8,300 in 10 unions of Sadar thanas.

Besides, 6,000 more VGF cards were distributed in six unions of Lakha, 9,200 in 11 unions of Madhabpur and 5,000 in 10 unions of Chunarughat thanas.

A total 2,600 VGF cards have already been distributed in Habiganj pourashava, 2,200 in Nabiganj pourashava, 2,200 in Madhabpur pourashava and 1,500 in Sayestaganj pourashava.

Official sources said total 588,800 metric tons of rice and 588,800 metric tons of wheat have been allocated under the VGF card programme.

Each of the VGF card-holder family will receive eight kg of rice and eight kg of wheat free of cost every month.

Another report from Gazipur says: A total of 52,000 VGF cards will be given to flood-affected people in 45 unions and two pourasabhas of the district.

Official sources said each VGF card holder will receive eight kg of rice and eight kg of wheat during the current month.

The government has allocated 832 metric tons of rice to distribute among the card holders.

BSS reports from Manikganj: District administration has directed all concerned authorities including TNO's of the district to disburse the foodgrains sanctioned for the flood victims under the VGF programme, properly.

Md Abdur Razaque, Deputy Commissioner, has given the direction in a meeting held in the conference room of deputy commissioner recently.

The meeting was attended, among others by political leaders, all TNO's of the district and local journalists.

The distribution work of 20,400 VGF cards among the flood victims of the 65 unions and one pourashava in the district is on full swing now. Each card holder will be given 16 kgs of foodgrain.

UNB reports from Sherpur: Some 56,200 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards have been allocated for the flood affected people in the district.

The cards are expected to be distributed from Sunday after listing the vulnerable group of the flood victims, district officials said.

They said distribution of the VGF cards are being delayed due to some complexity in the listing procedure.

Of the cards, 4,200 will be distributed among the residents of Sherpur municipality and

52,000 among the people of 52 unions. One thousand cards were allocated for each unions.

Officials said 899.20 metric tons of foodgrains were allotted for the purpose and every card holder will get 8 kg of rice and 8 kg of wheat for the month of October. The programme will be continued in the months of November and December.

A three-member vigilance team headed by one first class magistrate for each thana and one relief officer for each union was assigned to prevent any irregularity in the distribution of VGF cards.

One official of Relief and Rehabilitation Department visited five thanas to check corruption and irregularities.

Besides, under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme being run in the district since January last, some 9,595 card holders are getting 30 kg of foodgrains each every month. The programme will continue for next 18 months.

BSS reports from Kashiari in Gopalganj district: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque said the government has decided to distribute 40 lakh Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards among the flood-hit people of the country.

The authorities should remain alert to guard any form of nepotism or corruption while selecting the target groups for the VGF cards, the state minister said.

He was addressing different roadside rallies after distributing relief materials among the flood-affected people of Puriulia, Moheshpur, Sojail, Kashiari, Ratil and Fakra Area in Kashiari thana.

Some 6,000 people of these areas were given five-kilograms of rice each.

The state minister said a massive Food for Work Programme will be launched soon for rebuilding the damaged roads and other rural infrastructures.

Local parliamentarian Lt Col (ret'd) Farook Khan, former lawmaker Kazi Abdur Rashid, president of district Awami League Mohammad Ali Khan (Abu Mia) were present.

The state minister later visited erosion-affected banks of the Madhumati river in Bhatipara area.

BSS reports from Islampur in Jamalpur district: State Minister for land Al-Haj Reshed Mosharrar threw away a list of 1000 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) Cards at a public meeting here when it was detected that the persons involved in preparing the list had resorted to corrupt practices.

The public meeting at Shaheed Md Gen Khaled Mosharrar, Bir Uttam, Girls School maidan was jointly organised by the local administration and the local development area of Proshika for distributing VGF cards and interest-free agri-loan and cost-free seeds among farmers.

The state minister directed the district administration to prepare a fresh list of the recipients of VGF cards for distribution and instructed the administration to take stern action against those who would be found guilty in preparing the list. He stopped distribution of the VGF cards until a genuine list of recipients is prepared.

On receipt of allegations of corruption by the concerned union parishad members and chairman, the state minister checked five names of the list at random and all were found irregular. Mosharrar reacted angrily and ordered for taking stern action.

The minister later distributed Proshika's interest-free agri-loan among 397 persons of 12 primary societies. Proshika president Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed also spoke on the occasion. Later, he visited a Proshika-run medical centre for treatment of livestock. Proshika executives Serajul Islam and Nargis Jahan Banu apprised him of the various aspects of medicare services being rendered by Proshika for flood affected people as well as cattle.

## Diarrhoea claims seven lives in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 6: Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form in 13 thanas claimed seven lives and affected 2,113 others during the last month, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Parveen, 32, Nurul Islam, 35, Neavy, 4, Nadim Miah, 6, Rina, 2, Shueili, 1, and Jharna, 30. Of them, three died in sadar thana, two in Mitamain and one each in Bajitpur and Austragram thanas.

With this the death toll rose to 43 people since last July.

An unofficial sources said 97 people died of the water-borne disease during the period. Children and women are the worst affected.

Civil Surgeon office sources said some 176 medical teams with 77 doctors, 41 medical assistants and 670 workers have been working in the affected areas including sadar, Mitamain, Itana and Bhairab thanas.

Local physicians said intake of contaminated water and adulterated foodstuffs are the main reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases during the post flood period here.

A report from Shariatpur reports: Malaria that broke out in an epidemic form in the district claimed three lives on Wednesday.

Some 200 people in different thanas have been affected by the disease creating panic among the local people.

The deceased were identified as Zinnatul Haque, 28, of Patalakandi village in Zazira thana, Arshed Ali, 35, of Garbarchar in Gosairhat thana and Abdul Kayum, 14 of Dighirchar in Naria thana.

The affected people urged the health department to take immediate measures to check the spread of the disease.

## Shibir enforces hartal in Jhenidah, Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Nov 6: The half-day hartal, called by Islami Chhatra Shibir to protest killing of its two leaders, was peacefully observed in Kushtia and Jhenidah districts Monday reports UNB.

Shibir enforced the hartal demanding arrest and punishment to those involved in the killing of its leaders Mohsin and Mamun.

Mohsin died on Saturday while Abdullah Al Mamun the following day as they were critically injured in a clash between Shibir and BCL activists.

The pro-hartal activists brought out processions and held rallies during the hartal hours.

Meanwhile, Chhatra Shibir filed two cases against 24 BCL leaders for their alleged involvement in the killings.



MYMENSINGH: US Ambassador in Bangladesh John C Holzman being received by Vice-Chancellor of Mymensingh Agriculture University Prof Muhammad Hossain at VIP Guest House of the university during his recent visit. — star photo

## 70 pc roads damaged by prolonged flood in Noakhali dist

NOAKHALI, Nov 6: The prolonged flood has caused extensive damage to roads, bridges and culverts of the district which has been estimated at about Tk 200 crore, reports UNB.

Official sources said about 2,776-km of road was damaged. The worst affected roads included Noakhali-Begumganj-Laksham road, Chowmuhuni-Feni road, Majdi-Begumganj road, Majdi-Sonarpur road, Kachua-Dultapara road, Sompara-Chatkhal road and Majdi-WAPDA road.

Sources in Begumganj and Chatkhal said these two thanas have virtually turned into isolated areas as the communication remained paralysed.

Officials said about 70 per cent roads, bridges and culverts of Roads and Highways Department, Water Development Board, Local Government Engineering Department, District Council and the municipalities of Noakhali, Chowmuhuni, Chatkhal, Basurhat and Kabirhat were damaged by the flood.

They said about 30 roads and highways in the district had been affected and feared that the amount of damage due to the flood in the road communication sector might be increase further.

Another report from Naogaon said: the damage of roads and bridges in the district due to the flood is worth about Tk 16 crore.

According to an official estimate, some 442.76 kilometres of road and 1,436.84 metres of bridges and culverts in the district have been damaged by the flood waters.

Besides, the protection walls of two bridges in Mohadevpur and Potinala thanas have been damaged.

Of the total damage, 384.65 kilometres of road and 1,436.85 metres of bridges and culverts are under Local Government Engineering Department.

Under Roads and Highways Department, 22.86 kilometres of road and two culverts have been damaged. Besides, 35.25 kilometres of road under Barind Project had been affected by the flood waters.

The departments have requested for allocation from the government for the repair and rehabilitation work of the damaged roads and bridges.

But, said the officials, there was no such allocation so far under the post-flood rehabilitation programme.

Another report from Khulna says: The recent flood damage to the fisheries and agriculture sectors worth about Tk 20 crore in Mongla thana here.

Official sources said the farmers affected by the flood have been facing a threat of further damage of their 'Aman' crop due to massive pest invasion.

District Fisheries officials

said over 160 tons of fish from 1,603 ponds on 143 acres of land had been washed away by flood waters.

Moreover, 82 shrimp farms out of the total 482 in the thana had been affected during the flood and these incurred a loss of about Tk 16.55 crore.

The agriculture officials said the production shortage of 'Aman' due to the flood was about 4,200 metric tons worth about Tk 2 crore.

Thana Agriculture Officer said the attack of 'Mazra' insect was widespread in the thana and the department identified a number of affected paddy fields in Burirdanga union. He said the department has taken steps to help the farmers against the pest attack.

Meanwhile, the department has distributed money among the flood affected farmers under the agriculture rehabilitation programme. It also distributed seeds and seedlings of various winter vegetables among the farmers.

But a number of owners of the ponds said the remaining fish of their ponds have been attacked by various diseases during the post-flood period.

They said no significant step has yet been taken by fisheries department to combat the menace.

report from Habiganj adds: The