

News snaps

Monika stands 8th in HSC exam
From Staff Correspondent



BARISAL, Nov 10: Saharona Monika, a brilliant girl cadet of Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College stood 8th in the Combined Merit List of the last HSC examination held under Dhaka Board this year. She also secured 6th place in the SSC examination held in 1996. Her father Md Ayub Ali Dhall of sadar thana in Sariapur district is a freedom fighter who is now working at Barisal Cadet College. Monika is grateful to her father, mother, brother and colleagues for her brilliant result. She likes to read various books. She wants to study higher education in future. Add to news snaps

Woman gives birth to triplet

COMILLA, Nov 10: A woman has caused a stir at village Batagan in Laksham thana by giving birth to a triplet in the district for the first time, reports APB. Hajera Begum, 23, wife of one Joyal Abedin, however, had to undergo a caesarean to give birth to the triplet last month, family sources said. The mother and the newborn children are doing fine, doctors in the Midland Hospital of the town said. Hajera was admitted to the private hospital after she got the delivery pain on October 17. The attending doctors decided to operate upon her as she was not in a position to give birth normally. So did they in the midnight, said the family members. A girl child precedes the triplet. The couple have been passing about a 13-year conjugal life.

12,400 VGF cards issued in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Nov 10: The Relief Ministry issued 12,400 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards to poor people of different thanas of the hill district under the post-flood rehabilitation programme of the government, reports BSS. According to an official source, 224 tonnes of rice and wheat have been sanctioned for Bandarban district for implementation of the programme. The thana-wise distribution of VGF cards is as follows: Bandarban sadar 1,900, Ruma 2,000, Rungachhari 1,600, Tyhanchi 2,000, Lama 2,400, Alikadam 1,000 and Bandarban Paurashava 1,500.

BRDB loan for post-flood rehabilitation

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 10: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) under a massive post-flood rehabilitation programme has taken up a scheme to disburse Tk 11 crore loan to its members in the district, reports UNB. The loan is being given among nearly 40,000 poor members of BRDB in Bhoirab, Kuliachar, Bajitpur, Katiadi, Austagram, Itna, Mitamoni, Karimganj, Tarail, Nikly, Hossainpur, Pakundia and sadar thanas. The loan will be used for various income generating activities including cultivation of 'Boro' paddy.

Govt to distribute agri-loan

NARSINGDI, Nov 10: The government will distribute Tk 1.86 crore as agriculture loan under post-flood rehabilitation programme in the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB. Official sources said the loan will be disbursed through Bangladesh Krishi Bank. The bank has already disbursed Tk 72.15 lakh among 464 farmers including landless and marginal farmers for potato cultivation, buying crop seeds and cattle-head. Officials said the bank distributed Tk 38.65 lakh as agriculture loan and realised Tk 30.12 lakh during the last fiscal year.

Rice, wheat for Munshiganj flood victims

MUNSHIGANJ, Nov 10: A total of 72,100 flood-affected poor and destitute families are now getting eight kgs of rice and eight kgs of wheat a month under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme in six thanas of the district, reports BSS. One thousand VGF cards have been distributed in each of the 67 unions, 3,000 cards in Munshiganj Poursava and 2,100 cards in Mirkadam Poursava of the district.

Two commit suicide

GAIBANDHA, Nov 10: Two persons recently committed suicide by taking pesticide in Sadullapur thana following family disagreement. Monowar Islam, 27, of village Boro Jamalpur in Sadullapur thana committed suicide by taking pesticide. On the fateful day a quarrel ensued between wife and husband on family affairs. Being frustrated the husband took pesticide and fell ill. He was instantly rushed to Sadullapur health complex where he died at night in another incident. Saroj Kumar of village Goyespur in Sadullapur thana committed suicide by taking pesticide after listening to the marriage settlement of his lover elsewhere. He was rushed to Sadullapur health complex where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Body recovered

KHULNA, Nov 10: Police of Tala thana in Sakthira district recently recovered dead body of an unidentified young girl aged 20 from a bush at Nagarghata union. Police said there were no marks of injury on her body. She was raped before being killed, said the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tala thana. The unfortunate women's red sari, red blouse and all her silver ornaments were seized by police as evidence.

Housewife beaten to death

GAIBANDHA, Nov 10: Jharna 28, a housewife of village Chapporhati in Sundarganj thana was allegedly beaten to death by her husband recently. Police said husband of the victim Montazuddin tortured her occasionally. On the fateful day the couple had a quarrel. At one stage the husband started beating her mercilessly. As a consequence, the victim died on the spot. The killer kept the dead body hidden. The matter was, however, exposed immediately after the incident. On being informed police rushed to the spot and recovered the body in presence of a magistrate.

Man electrocuted

SATKHIRA, Nov 10: One person was electrocuted and died on the spot when he went to connect electric line at Kathaltala puja mandap in sadar thana recently. The victim has been identified as Amjad Hossain, 22, son of Akbar Ali of village Bhatpara in sadar thana. According to eyewitnesses, the victim was connecting a electrical line from a nearby house of the mandap.

Man killed by younger brother

KUSHTIA, Nov 10: Asruddin, 80, was hit by a stick of his younger brother Osman recently when they had a quarrel over maintenance of their mother at village Majla in the sadar thana. The victim died after sometime. On getting information police rushed there and recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. Haidar Ali, son of the victim has filed a case with Kushtia police station accusing Osman. Badsha, Panna, Monwar and Rafiqul. Police, however could not arrest anybody in this connection.

Cyclist killed in road accident

JHENIDAH, Nov 10: An unknown bi-cyclist aged about 50 was killed in a road accident and 10 other students of Islamic University were injured when a university bus hit the cyclist near Charubi in Saikupa thana recently, according to eyewitnesses and police. The accident took place when the cyclist tried to cross the road on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway. The driver of the bus tried to save the victim, but failed, said some of the students who were travelling on the bus. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Widow chopped to death

KURIGRAM, Nov 10: An widow named Giribala, 37 and mother of three children of village Jatrapur in the sadar thana was chopped to death by some unknown miscreants recently.

Noor Hossain Day observed in Khulna

KHULNA, Nov 10: Noor Hossain Day was observed here today by different political and socio-cultural organisations, reports BSS. Awami League held a meeting at its office this morning to pay tributes to the memory of Shaheed Noor Hossain. Presided over by the president of Khulna City Awami League Monjurul Imam, speakers at the meeting recalled the sacrifice of Shaheed Noor Hossain in establishing democracy in the country. Awami Jubo League in a separate meeting paid tribute to Noor Hossain and Jubo League leader Waliur Rahman who was killed on November 7 in Dhaka by alleged BNP activists. Speakers at the meeting said that Shaheed Noor Hossain laid down his life in 1987 for upholding the cause of democracy. The meeting also recalled the sacrifice of Jubo League leader Waliur Rahman. The meeting held at the Khulna Shaheed Hadis Park was presided over by convener of Awami Jubo League Khulna Mizanur Rahman Mizan.

Open Market Sale of rice demanded

JAMALPOUR, Nov 10: Prices of essentials including rice, pulse and vegetables have shot up in the local markets causing sufferings to the people specially the poor and fixed income group, reports UNB. People have demanded Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice to check sharp rise of its price. The situation is particularly worse as most of the farmers and poorer section of the people had suffered seriously due to prolonged and devastating flood this year. Market sources said, coarse variety of rice is being sold at Tk 16 per kg while the fine variety at Tk 18, flour at Tk 13 per kg and pulse at Tk 40 in different haits and bazars across the district during the last week. They said onion, green chili and garlic are being sold at Tk 60 per kg, dried chili at Tk 100, turmeric at Tk 80, potato at Tk 10, brinjal at Tk 20, karala at Tk 32. The price of fish is stable, but meat is being sold at a higher price. Poor people specially day labourers, rickshaw pullers, drivers of rickshaw van and push cart, transport workers, third and fourth class employees and small traders have been facing serious problem in coping with the situation with their very limited income.

Killing protested

RANGAMATI, Nov 10: Rangamati district unit of Awami Jubo League and Chhatra League brought out a joint procession on Sunday to protest the killing of Jubo League central leader Waliullah, reports BSS. The procession, led by the president of the district unit of Awami Jubo League, Sakawat Hussain Rubel, paraded the main thoroughfares of the town demanding trial of the killers. Later, a protest rally was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office premises. General Secretary of Jubo League Fazlul Karim Fazal, Mujibur Rahman Mujib, Monirul Islam Ratan, Joint Convener of Chhatra League Rezaul Karim Reza, among others spoke at the rally with Sakawat Hussain Rubel in the chair.

Missing industrialist yet to be traced

CHUADANGA, Nov 10: The whereabouts of a local industrialist and leading trader Ashabul Hoque Asha who has been missing since September 29 could not be known till writing of this report. Asha, 38, left his Chuadanga Mallick para residence on September 29 last for his office at Joti Biscuit Factory at Alokdia, three kilometre from here. Since then he did not come back. Anwar Hossain Anu, brother of the missing industrialist filed a kidnapping case against four partners of Joti Biscuit Industries at Chaudanga police station. They are Asjur Prosad Agarwalla, Uma Proshad Agarwalla, Kishore Kumar Agarwalla and Sirajul Islam. They were arrested by the Chuadanga thana police. The arrested persons did not confess their involvement in the kidnapping.

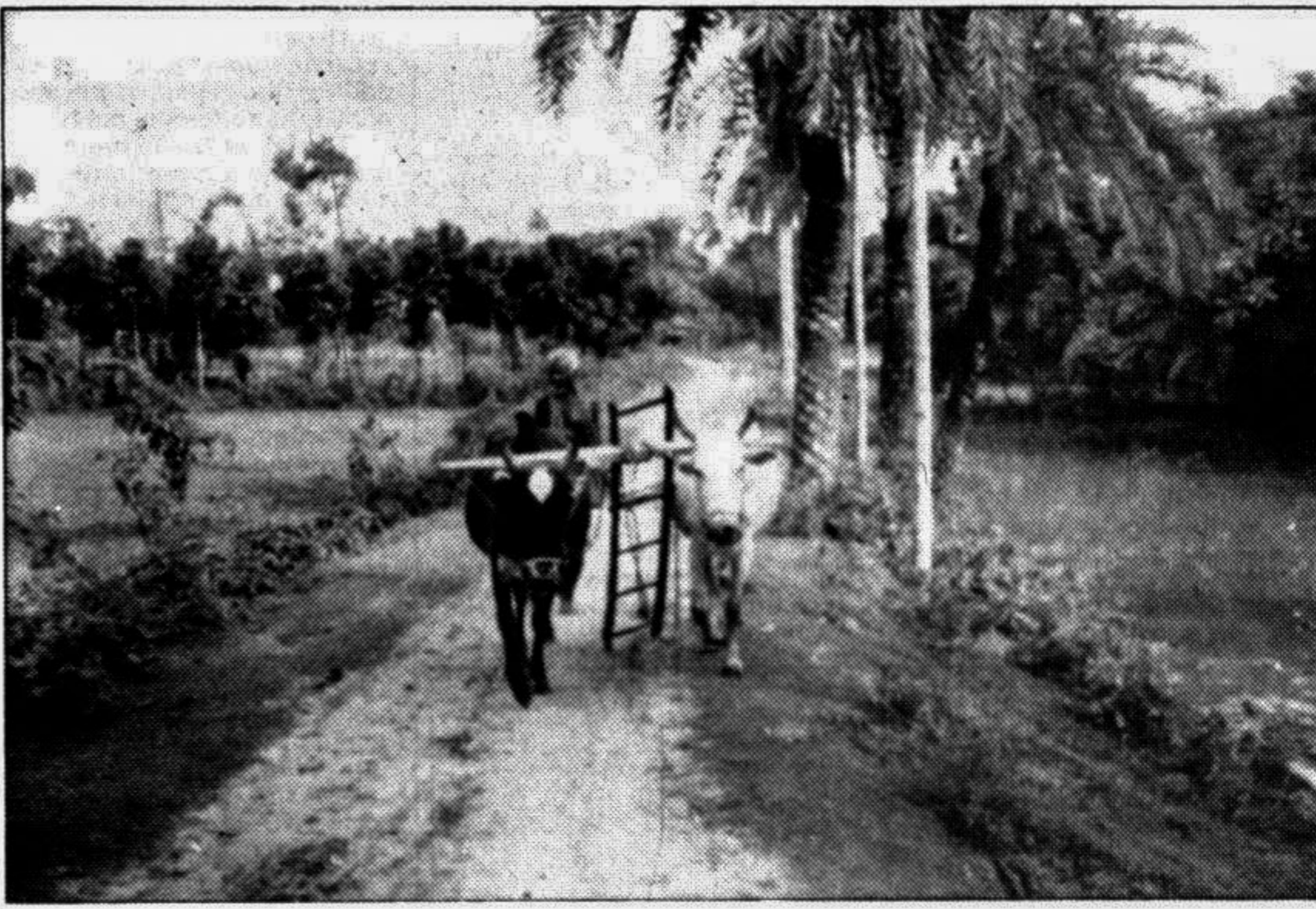
Ramgati people fighting a losing battle facing many odds

NOAKHALI, Nov 10: Like many other shoal areas of the country, people of Ramgati thana are also deprived of their lands, crops and other facilities over the ages, reports UNB. Grappled with various problems like never-ending land settlement process, repression by land lords or muselman and looting of crops, hundreds of poor families in shoal areas of the thana are fighting a losing battle for survival. It's true that they are poor and landless, but they never bow down to landlords, they live here frequently shifting their residences from one shoal to another for lack of consciousness, said an NGO official. Ramgati thana has got a

Diarrhoea, water-borne diseases spreading in districts

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Nov 10: Diarrhoea breaks out in Balukhali union of Rangamati sadar thana. Chairman of Balukhali union Mayadhan Chakma said, after the outbreak of diarrhoea at killamura area five persons were admitted to Rangamati General Hospital. They are Ladera Tripura, 30, Ladiary Tripura, 17, Anita Tripura, 31, Lipi Tripura, 5, and chikna Tripura, 25. A medical team has been sent to the area, the district health department said. APB reports from Narsingdi: Various water-borne diseases have broken on a large-scale in the flood affected six thanas of Narsingdi district, unofficial sources said. More than 100 people, including 48 minors, have died of diarrhoea and 15,000 others have fallen victims to intestinal diseases, including diarrhoea. However, the District Civil Surgeon's office, confirmed 32 deaths from diarrhoea and put the figure of affected people at 8,000. The worst affected unions are: Hajipur, Karimpur, Alokballi, Nazarpur, Char Dighaldi, Chimpirur, Shilmandir, Panchodona, Meherpura, Kathalia and Paikerchar in Sadar thana, and Nilikhya, Charnadhua, Banshgari, Chanpur, Paratoli, Shimmaghar, Amirganj, Mirzacher, Char Aralia, Halmara, Charshabadi, Raipura, Chandkerandi, Murapur and Polash-tali in Raipur thana. According to a report, 15,000 people, including 9,000 children and women, have been attacked by diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases, mostly during the last five weeks. Physicians said the diseases have broken out mainly owing to scarcity of wholesome food and safe drinking water in the flood stricken areas. Besides, the overall health situation in the town has worsened with the influx of diseased persons from the rural areas. Meantime, a good number of medical teams have been working in the area round the clock. Many people are being admitted into six thana health complexes and the sadar hospital almost every day. Local people complained that no medical team has yet been seen in the worst affected areas where acute shortage of oral saline prevails.

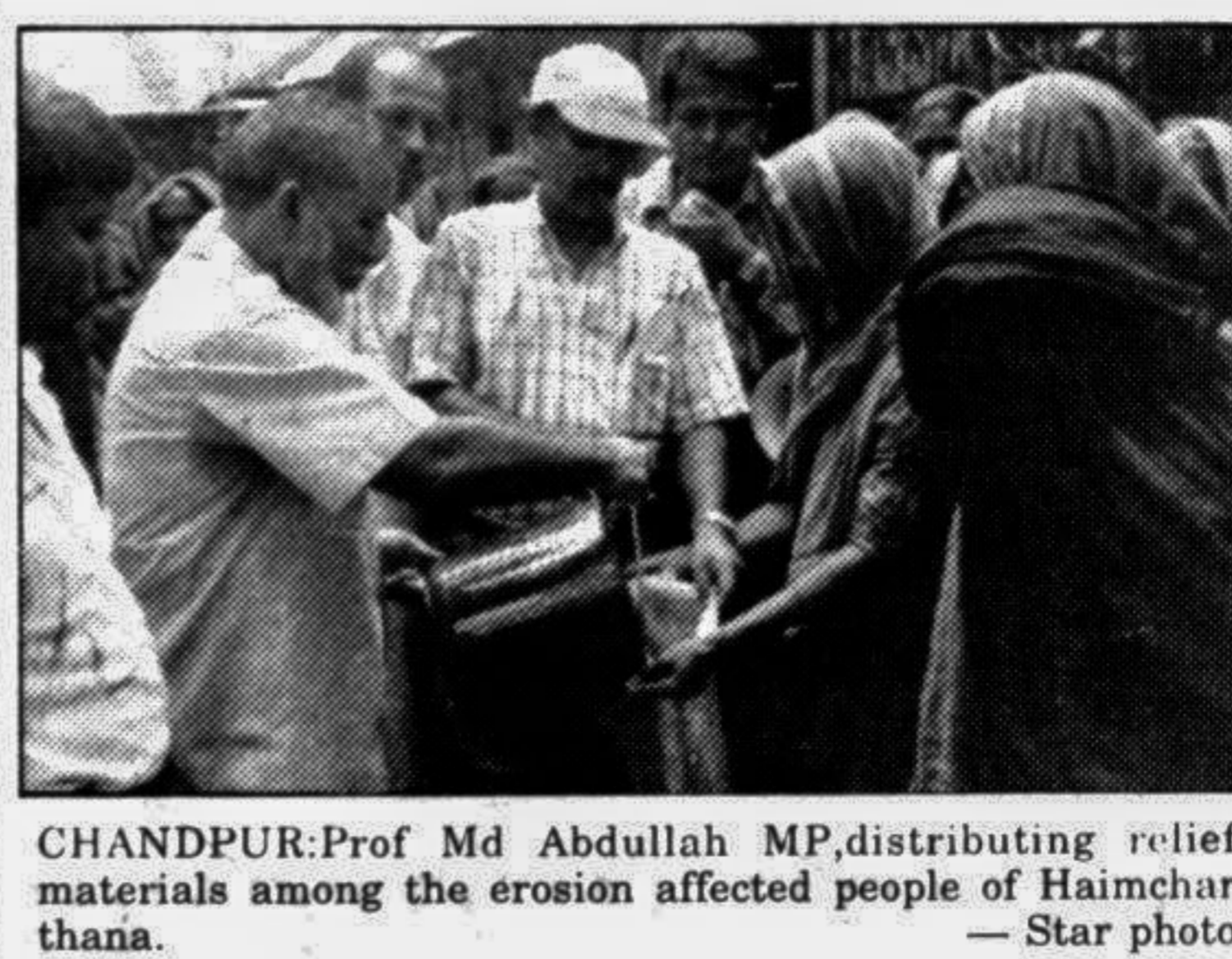


MAGURA: An old farmer going to prepare his land for cultivation of onion. — Star photo

Teachers' shortage at Chandpur Government College

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Nov 10: Acute shortage of teachers has been prevailing at Chandpur Government College. At present about 50 per cent posts of teachers are lying vacant, office staffers and MLSS are lying vacant. Masters' final, Preliminary and Honours courses have been introduced in Bengali, Accountancy, Economics and Political Science since 1994. According to Enam Commission report, 12 teachers are required in each department to run the courses. Only six to seven teachers are running each department. As a result proper academic atmosphere is not prevailing in the college. According to college office sources, out of total 120 posts 59 posts of teachers are lying vacant. Out of four teachers only one teacher is taking classes in Social Welfare Department. Honours courses have also been introduced in Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Mathematics. But only three to four teachers are taking classes in each department. Masters and Honours departments have no office staffers and MLSS. Md Abu Taher Bhuya, Principal of the college told this correspondent that he had written letters several times to the concerned ministry about creation of posts, but in vain. Moreover, the college has no boundary wall for a long time. As a result outsiders, cattle and miscreants can easily enter into the college premises and disturb the academic atmosphere. The condition of female hostel is deplorable. There is accommodation for only 50 students. About 100 female students are residing in the hostel now. The playground of the college is situated at a low lying area where rain water remains stagnant almost round the year obstructing participation of students in games and sports. APB reports from Panchagarh: Primary education for 1.5 lakh children in the country's northern-most district is being hampered owing to lack of teachers, furniture and academic facilities. The authorities of the primary schools in Panchagarh Sadar, Atoari, Tetulia, Deviganj and Boda thanas find it difficult to impart education to their pupils due to these handicaps, the District Primary Education Office sources said. Yet, according to official estimates, the rate of literacy in the district has been increasing steadily. Out of 633 primary schools in five thanas, 310 ones are run by the government. The sources said positions of 72 teachers in the government-run primary schools have long been lying vacant. These include positions of 56 Head Masters. Although a large portion of boys and girls of poverty-stricken areas of the district does not go to schools, the number of children of school-going age last year totalled 1,47,633, out of whom 1,44,691 got admitted themselves into different schools. Of the total schoolgoers, 75,236 were boys and 69,455 girls. According to an official account, the rate of admission into primary schools rose from 71 per cent in 1990 to '98 per cent in the year 1998. But, a large number of students have dropped out within the first five months of getting admitted into schools. The reason for this has been said to be poverty of the guardians. According to a survey carried out by UNICEF the rate of attendance in the district last year was 59 per cent. The rate of attendance could be raised and the percentage of dropouts reduced by launching input based educational curricula and making the atmosphere within the schools more attractive. Deputy Director of the Directorate of Primary Education in Rajshahi Nazrul Islam told.



CHANDPUR: Prof Md Abdullah MP, distributing relief materials among the erosion affected people of Haimchar thana. — Star photo

Essentials dear in Gopalganj

GOPALGANJ, Nov 10: Prices of essentials have shot up owing to the recent devastating flood in the district causing much trouble to the poor people, reports UNB. Rice and flour are selling relatively at higher prices. Presently, coarse rice is selling at Tk 15 while fine variety between Tk 20 and Tk 22 per kg. People are buying flour between Tk 14 and Tk 15 per kg. Mustard and soyabean oils are available between Tk 57 and Tk 62 per litre, locally produced onion at Tk 38 and Indian onion at Tk 38/40 per kg in the market.

In N-districts Hot temperature at day, chilly weather at night

PANCHAGARH, Nov 10: Frontier districts of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, situated within the range of the great Himalayas, have begun to experience unusual climatic conditions, reports APB. This also meant, meteorologists said, the winter had been heralded in this part of the country this season earlier than usual due to the prolonged floods. Usually, the winter comes in the region towards the end of October, but it was being felt well ahead of the time. "Not only that, the intensity of the winter will be higher than that of the previous years," forecast one. Locals said they had now-days been experiencing hot and humid temperatures during the day time while foggy and chilly weather after the dusk. A weather expert here said the day temperature in these districts ranged between 34 and 38 degree Celsius, which dropped to 25-20 degrees following the nightfall. Temperatures fell even lower than that towards the small hours in the morning, he said. The fluctuations in temperature, however, were not being recorded properly in the abysence of weather offices in the districts. Physicians of the sadar hospital told that increasing number of people were falling sick owing to this rise and fall in temperature. According to unofficial statistics, as many as 35 people had died owing to biting cold last winter. Although the local administration had sought for warm clothes during full winter, the authorities sent it in the wake of the season, locals complained. This time they have urged the government to arrange distribution of winter clothes among the poor and destitute of this region well before the onset of the winter.

Tragic Five Carmichael College teachers hurt in bomb attack

JHENIDAH, Nov 10: A young housewife lost her life as she tried to safeguard her chastity, reports UNB. The tragic incident took place in village Kodalia in sadar thana on Thursday. Residents of the area said, Rokeya Begum, 28, was asleep at night in her house when a neighbour, Ashraf, stealthily crept into her bed. Awakened she tried to resist Ashraf who tried to violate her. Falling in his bid, the brute stabbed her by a sharp knife leaving the hapless woman dead. Sirajul Islam, the husband of Rokeya, was away from home when the tragic incident occurred. On hearing the hue and cry of the victim, neighbours rushed to the spot and caught hold Ashraf. He was later handed over to the police. Police recovered the body and sent to sadar hospital for autopsy. Witnesses said the Shibir men attacked the principal's office as one of their members was called in by the college authority for passing an objectionable pamphlet onto the wall of the college. The injured teachers were identified as Mazhar Hossain of Philosophy, Abdur Razzag of Economics, Abdul Jalil of Physics and Selim Ahmed and Nirodhnath Burman of Mathematics department.

Killer gets life-term imprisonment

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Nov 10: A killer was recently awarded life-term imprisonment. Shudhend Kumar Biswas, District and Sessions Judge, Gopalganj has given the judgement of life-term imprisonment and fined Taka 5,000 to Siraj Sheikh, 45, for killing Sikandar Ali. He also ordered to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment to the killer in default to pay the fine. Sikandar Ali of Lohogara thana in Narail district went to Eshakhali village in Gopalganj sadar thana on August 10, '96. He went there to rescue his wife Shahanara Hury. A group of policemen of Gopalganj thana accompanied him. Police raided the residence of Siraj Sheikh and rescued Sikandar Ali. When they reached near Eshakhali — Gopalganj road rescuing Shanara Hury then Siraj Sheikh stabbed Sikandar Ali in presence of police by 'Kattra', a deadly weapon. He died on the spot. It is to be mentioned here, Humayun Kabir, brother of killer Siraj Sheikh married Hury 20 years ago and they have four daughters out of the marriage. They are school and college students. But Hury fell in deep love with Sikandar before her marriage. Meanwhile, Humayun Kabir used to torture his wife Hury frequently. As a result Hury left her husband Humayun's residence and she remarried with her school life boy-friend Sikandar Ali. She lived in Dhaka city with her second husband. Once Hury came to her previous husband Humayun Kabir's residence to see her daughters at Eshakhali village from Dhaka. She had been detained by Siraj Sheikh, brother of her previous husband. A case was filed with Gopalganj PS in this connection and police submitted charge-sheet to court against Siraj Sheikh after investigation. The District and Sessions Judge of Gopalganj gave the aforesaid verdict.

BNP-police clash at Sirajganj: 17 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 10: At least 17 people, including a police man, were injured in sporadic clashes in the town between opposition BNP activists and police Sunday, reports UNB. They received injuries as riot police resorted to baton charge and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse BNP processions brought out in the evening in support of 48-hour country-wide hartal from Monday.

Tk two lakh allocated for repairing flood damaged houses in Bogra

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Nov 10: A total of Taka Two lakh has been allocated from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for repairing damaged houses in Bogra district during the last deluge. District Relief and Rehabilitation Office demanded Taka 50 lakh in cash and CI sheets of 20 thousand bundles for repairing more than 62 thousand flood damaged houses. The government allocation is too meagre to meet the huge building cost in 11 thanas. According to the report of the district relief office, about 62 thousand 2 hundred houses were damaged partially or completely in the district. The partially damaged houses are 53 thousand 4 hundred 64 and completely damaged houses are 8 thousand 7 hundred 54. The affected people of Dupchachia will get the highest amount at the rate of Taka 34 and paisa 30. Government sources said, 5 hundred 30 houses were damaged due to flood and heavy rain in Dupchachia thana. An amount of 46 paisa will get each and every people of Shariakandi thana as 39 thousand 1 hundred 35 houses were damaged in the thana.



SYLHET: Some people have occupied the valuable lands adjacent to Sylhet Railway Station. They have erected unauthorised shops on the lands. Anti-social activities are going on at night in these shops, but no action is being taken by the members of law enforcing agencies. — Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee