

News snaps

Flood cripples 85 pc people

NARSINGDI, Nov 27: The recent floods, which caused widespread damage to standing crops and industrial units have left nearly 85 per cent people of the six thanas of the district economically crippled, reports APB.

The floods had damaged standing crops on 30,320 hectares of land completely and those on 39,570 hectares partially. The damaged crops include crops like paddy, jute and vegetables, valued at nearly Tk 339 crore. Besides, transplanted Aman paddy could not be planted on vast tracts of land owing to the recent floods. Loss on this account is likely to be at least Tk 120 crore. Apart from that thousands of workers have been thrown out of employment following the floods in all the six thanas.

Winter vegetables seeds distributed

RAJBARI, Nov 27: Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Goalundo Karmajibi Kalyan Sangstha has distributed seeds of winter vegetables amongst the flood affected peasant farmers here, reports APB.

The seeds were distributed under the Post-flood Rehabilitation Programme at the most affected places like Mizanpur, Barat, Dhopaghat and Goalundo. The Director of the Kalyan Sangstha told that seeds have been distributed among 1,000 farmers and each of the 300 worst-affected peasants have been given cash Tk 600 each. The programme has been launched with financial assistance of Mennonite Christian Community (MCC).

Price hike of rice

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 27: People of lower income group in rural areas of northern districts have been facing acute problem in maintaining their livelihood due to abnormal price hike of rice and other essentials, reports UNB.

Although new paddy and rice of the season are pouring into the local hats and bazaars but prices are beyond the reach of the poor people. Fine rice is being sold between Tk 22 and Tk 23 while coarse rice between Tk 17 and Tk 18 per kg. Besides, price of pulses, spices, vegetables, meat and fish also went up causing sufferings to the common people. Poor and marginal farmers and day labourers have lost everything due to the recent flood and are passing their days in great hardships.

Training for BAU security staff

MYMENSINGH, Nov 27: A two-week training course for the security staff of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), has begun at the university stadium on November 21, reports BSS.

Prof M Shahidullah Talukdar inaugurated the training course on various aspects of security measures. Twenty security staff of the university have been participating in the training, a university press release said.

NGOs distribute 1,234 tubewells

SYLHET, Nov 27: Different NGOs have distributed 1,234 tubewells in four districts of the division since 1989 to improve water supply and sanitation facilities, reports UNB.

The NGO Forum distributed the tube-wells through its 45 member organisations, said an official adding that 66 more tube-wells will be installed this year. The forum also set up 31 rural infrastructure centres to improve rural sanitation services in these districts. Seven more centres will be set up this year. NGOs working in the drinking water and sanitation sectors have set up six ring wells in the hilly areas of these districts where there is scarcity of drinking water.

PHED scheme to install 308 tubewells

RANGAMATI, Nov 27: Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) has taken up a scheme to install 308 tubewells in the district and in Bandarban during the current fiscal year at a cost of Tk 70 lakh, reports UNB.

Of the total, 232 will be sunk in Rangamati and 76 in Bandarban to ensure supply of drinking water to some 3,800 families of these two hill districts, said the officials here. The tube-wells include ring well, Tara pump and shallow tube-wells which will be installed in those thanas where scarcity of pure water is acute. Of the total tube-well, some 35 will be reinstalled after proper repair, officials added.

JP workers' rally held

NETRAKONA, Nov 27: A workers rally of Jatiya Party, Netrakona Pouroshava unit, was held at Jatiya Party office premises here on November 20, reports BSS.

Former parliament member and senior vice president of Netrakona district Jatiya Party Dewan Shahjahan Yar Chowdhury attended the workers rally as the chief guest. President of Netrakona Pouroshava Jatiya Party Ayub Ali Fano was in the chair. The rally was addressed, among others, by former upazila chairman of Apara Jahirul Islam Khan Maju, member secretary of Netrakona sadar thana Jatiya Party Habibul Mustafa Sabuj and member secretary of Netrakona Pouroshava Jatiya Party Shamsuzoha Ratan.

Review meeting on rehabilitation

COMILLA, Nov 27: A review meeting on post-flood rehabilitation programme was held here at deputy commissioner's conference room on November 22, reports BSS.

District relief officer and thana project implementation officers attended the meeting. Director General of Relief and Rehabilitation Department AM Abdul Jabbar presided over the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Maola, Deputy Director Alauddin Khan, and Dr Abu Jafar Khan spoke in the meeting. Test Relief and Food for Works Programmes of greater Comilla and Noakhali districts were discussed and reviewed for proper implementation.

Jute seed-beds display

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 27: Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED) has taken a programme to mitigate the deficiency of jute seeds in the district, reports BSS.

The directorate has set up 50 display seed-beds in 10 thanas. The beds will produce 'falguni tusha' jute seeds. According to AED sources, thana-wise break up of seed-beds is: six in sadar thana, seven in Katiadi, six in Pakundia, six in Karimganj, six in Hossainpur, three in Nikli, four in Kuliarchar, four in Bhairab, five in Taral thana and three in Bajitpur thana. Every display seed-bed consists of one bigha of land. Agriculture directorate is supplying necessary seeds and manure free of cost.

Tk 40.66 lakh road repairing project

MADARIPUR, Nov 27: Madaripur Municipality has taken up a Tk 40.66 lakh project to repair 10 major roads of the town, official sources said, reports APB.

The project is being implemented under the post-flood rehabilitation programme with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB). The roads include Kazi Mostafa Road, Shaheed Bachchu Road, S Khanpara Road, TB Clinic Road, Madaripur Main Road, Kulpaddai Main Road, Charmingra Road and Aminuddin Hawlader Road. All the 35 municipal roads, including 10 major ones, got damaged during the recent floods across the country.

Wheat farming progressing

CHUADANGA, Nov 25: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up a programme to distribute 96,849 kilograms of wheat seed worth Taka 22 lakh among the growers of four thanas of district free of cost under the post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme of the government, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the cultivation of wheat has already begun on 1,900 acres of land in Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Dairiakhuda and Jibnagar thanas. The cultivation will be completed by the end of the November.

Tk 44 lakh agri-loan distributed

NOAKHALI, Nov 27: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has distributed Tk 44 lakh as agriculture loan among 510 poor aman farmers in Hatiya thana, reports UNB.

Official sources said, of the amount, Tk 14.86 lakh was disbursed among 179 farmers of Char Ishwar, Tk 9.04 lakh among 104 farmers of Sahabani Bazar, Tk 10.79 lakh among 128 farmers of Jahazmara and Tk 7.13 lakh among 99 farmers of Hatiya sadar. Another report from Ranganati says: Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a massive programme to bring 15,672 hectares of land under 'Rabi' crops cultivation in the current season. Official sources said, of the total 8,100 hectares will be brought under 'Boro' crop, 50 hectares under wheat and 700 hectares under maize and the rest under vegetable cultivation.

178km Rly tracks damaged

NATORE, Nov 27: A total of 178 km railway tracks along with 21 bridges and culverts under the west zone of Bangladesh Railway (BR) were damaged by the long lasting devastation flood, reports UNB.

The extent of damage was estimated at Tk 37 crore. The zone has also incurred a loss of Tk 50 lakh as revenue during the same. Concerned source said, of the total, 135 km tracks have been damaged in broad gauge section and 43 km in the meter gauge section. The worst affected railway tracks included 30 km in Ishward-Sirajganj section, 10 km in Nature-Santahar section, five km in Amuura-Chapainawabganj section, 10 km in Rajbari-Goalunda section of broad gauge, while 10 km on Trimohini-Balashighat route of meter gauge.



RAJSHAHI: Pitiab condition of the lone children's park here. — Star photo

Rajshahi Children's Park now a fallow land

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Nov 27: There is a park for children here, but not a single child goes there now-a-days. The so-called park, with wild grass, herbs and shrubs grown throughout the whole area, seems to be a fallow land.

The park is a part of Rajshahi Central Park and Zoo. It was established in 1972 at Srirampur beside Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway along the northern side of the Town Protection Dam. Ponds and lakes were dug and artificial hills were constructed and a small zoo was established with some beautiful deers.

Later, the zoo was extended and various kinds of animals including tigers, camels, monkeys and 'gharialis' were assembled here. There was a children's corner which was developed into a children's park later on.

The park and zoo had created enthusiasm among the city dwellers. Because then there was not a single public place for recreation in the city. A huge number of visitors, especially children and adolescents, started thronging in the park every afternoon for innocent pleasure.

Rajshahi Zilla Parishad established the Central Park and Zoo, but ultimately it had failed to manage it well due to shortage of funds. With a view to meeting the recreational demands of the city dwellers, Rajshahi City Corporation finally took over the charge of the park

about over one year ago. It is a matter of regret that after its handing over to Rajshahi City Corporation no development work was done till writing of this report.

Rather, the condition of the children's park worsened gradually. The total infrastructures inside the park were damaged because those were lying unused for many days. The whole children's park now looks like an abandoned fallow land.

The corporation authorities, however, said that it had already chalked out a plan for extension and development of the total Central Park and Zoo including the Children's Park. The work will begin soon, they added.

27 killing incidents at RU in 26 years

RAJSHAHI, Nov 25: Some 27 incidents of killing took place at Rajshahi University (RU) during the last 26 years, reports UNB.

According to the varsity sources, the incidents occurred due mainly to rivalry between the student wings of the political parties, intra-party clashes and clashes between the law enforcing members and villagers, adjacent to the university.

The university witnessed the first killing in 1973 when a Jobo League activist was shot dead in front of Monnujan Hall.

In 1976, Chhatra Dal leader Tanvir, earlier injured by the rival student organisation, succumbed at his house in Nilphamari district.

Chhatra League activist Moshaq Elahi was killed in a clash with Chhatra Dal on November 3, 1980s.

On March, 1982, four Shibir activists were killed in a bloody clash between Shibir and Chhatra Sangram Parishad (CSP). Of the dead, Abdul Jabbar was the university student and the rest were outsiders.

On December 22, 1984, newspaper hawker Abdul Aziz was killed during hartal hours enforced by Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad.

Hedayet Hossain, an alleged outsider, was killed in a clash that took place between the students and the villagers on September 18, 1986.

On November 17, 1988, Shibir leader Aslam Hossain was killed in a clash between two groups of students. Another Asgar Ali was stabbed to death on the following day near SM Hall.

On April 18, 1989, Shibir leader Shafiqul Islam was gunned down in a clash with the CSP.

Another Shibir leader Khalilur Rahman was killed in a clash with the same group on June 22, 1990.

Chhatra League (JSD) leader Yasir Arafat Pintu was killed in a clash between Shibir and CSP during the siege programme of the residence of the then Vice-Chancellor on March 17, 1992.

On February 6, 1993, JCD activist Bishajit and Shibir ac-

tivist Rabiul Mustafiz were killed in a clash with CSP.

Chhatra Union Activist Tapan Chandra Roy and another student Amjad Hossain injured on that day succumbed later at the hospital.

Chhatra Moitri leader Jubayer Chowdhury Rimu was killed in a clash with Shibir on September 19, 1993.

A series of clashes between the activists of JCD and Shibir took place on February 11 and 12, 1995 left two students — Ismail Hossain and Mustafizur Rahman — dead. Five more students were crippled following the injuries.

The last incident of killing occurred on March 6, 1996. General Secretary of RU unit JASAS Amanullah was hacked to death by the activists of Shibir in front of the university library.

Inquiry committees have been formed every time immediately after the incidents, but reports of these committees could not as yet see the light of the day, alleged the general students.

Freshers' reception at CU

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) of Chittagong University unit arranged a 'Freshers Reception and Farewell Programme' at Chittagong University Central Students Union auditorium on Saturday.

It was presided over by Tridib Chakma, Convener of the parishad, Abdul Mannan, Vice Chancellor of the University was present as the chief guest where Prof Hamida Banu, president of Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) and Dr Mamta Uddian Patwary, Professor of History Department were present as special guest.

Separate incidents claim 3 in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Nov 27: Three people, including a woman, died and another two were injured in separate incidents in the district on Monday, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said, Ruhul Amin, 42, was killed in a gas cylinder explosion in an ice factory at Sultanpur in sadar thana.

Another two, Khokom and Yunus were injured in the same incident.

Romecha, 22, daughter of Korban, succumbed at Satkhira Sadar Hospital. She was earlier injured in a wall collapse at Gabura village in Shyamnagar thana.

Kabirul Islam, 23, succumbed to his injuries at the sadar Hospital. He was earlier allegedly injured by a handbar of BDR camp.

Another report from Jessore says: An alleged terrorist was slaughtered by the rival gang at Tetulia village in Kotwali thana on Saturday.

BRAC distributing loan among flood victims

BARISAL, Nov 27: BRAC, a non-governmental organisation has started disbursing money to the fish culturists, farmers and poultry farm own-



BARISAL: BRAC loan disbursement programme progressing. — Star photo

ers of flood-hit Uzirpur thana area.

It is part of their post-flood rehabilitation programme. A total amount of Taka 7,65,750 will be disbursed by November 30, according to BRAC sources.

Meanwhile, it has already disbursed loans as follows: Taka 500 each for 100 betel-leaf growers, Taka 5,000 each for 100 farmers for purchasing high breed seeds and fertilisers, Taka 500 each for 150 poultry farm owners, Taka 4,000 each for 25 poultry birds rearers, Taka 800 each for fish cultivators, Taka 110 each for purchasing mango seedlings.

Earlier, 848 flood affected people were given interest-free loan for repairing damaged houses in the area. Each of them was given Taka 500.

Rangpur farmers harvesting 'Aman' in low spirit

RANGPUR, Nov 27: The farmers are harvesting 'Aman' paddy in northern districts, but in low spirit, as floods and pests ravaged the season's food crops, reports UNB.

As the reaping began, officials apprehended the harvests could be far below the targets in the greater Rangpur and Dinajpur zones.

Standing paddy crops on about 1.56 lakh hectares in the eight northern districts have been washed away by the deluge during the farming period.

Besides, crops in thousands of hectares in these districts were ravaged by widespread pest-attack.

'Aman' paddy was cultivated on about 9.54 lakh hectares in the potential farming zone that contributes much of the grain to the country's food stock. High-Yielding Variety (HYV) crops were in 6.54 lakh hectares and local varieties in 3 lakh.

District-wise breakdown: 1.30 lakh hectares in Rangpur,

95,000 hectares in Gaibandha, 1.03 lakh in Kurigram, 85,000 hectares in Lalmonirhat, one lakh in Nilphamari, 2.26 lakh in Dinajpur, 110,500 hectares in Thakurgaon and 1.04 lakh hectares in Panchagarh.

Meanwhile, new 'Aman' paddy has started coming onto the heated market. The newly harvested paddy is selling between Tk 350 and Tk 380 per maund in different hats and bazaars.

But the authorities apprehend that the procurement targets might not be achieved as the price offered by the government is below the market rate.

The government has fixed the buying price of rice at Tk 12 while paddy at Tk 7.60 per kg. Procurement targets are 37,500 metric tonnes of paddy and 82,000 tonnes of rice in these eight districts.

BCIC International Re-Tender Notice

বিনিয়াইনি'র পশা শিয়ারনে জাতীয় অর্থতির দ্বীক

Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites International Tender NO PD (F)-28A/98 for Purchasing Fuses which will be opened on 13.12.98 at 3.00 PM. Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk 100.00 (one hundred) per set from (1) KNM Ltd, (2) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka and (3) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC-1026-22/11/98
DFP-24859-24/11
G-2669

Manager Purchase
For Managing Director

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Habiganj, Telephone: 3269

Tender Corrigendum Notice

Corrigendum notice of tender notice no. 3(three)/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Habiganj 1998-99.

This is for information of all concerned that the tender notice no. 3(three) of Habiganj Road Division which was invited by Memo No. 4202, dated 12-11-98 in total 8(eight) groups, the group no. 4(four) and group no. 5(five) have been cancelled due to unavailable circumstances.

Ruling, terms and conditions, special conditions other than the said amendment will remain unchanged.

Md Sharafuddin
Executive Engineer
(Current Charge)
Road Division, Habiganj.

DFP-24726-23/11/98
G-2675

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, Chandpur Road Division

R&H Tender Invitation Notice

1. Tender Notice : 14/EE/CRD/1998-99.

2. Name of work : Tender invitation for construction of RCC box culvert of 3.66m high and 3.05m span at 34/3 No gap at the 34th kilometre of Gouripur-Kachua-Haziganj and Gazirhat-Feni Road under Chandpur Road Division during 1998-99 fiscal year.

3. Estimated cost : Tk 17,30,391/-

4. Earnest money : At the rate of 2% of the estimated cost in the form of BD/TC/Defence Saving Certificate or Bonus Sachayaptra in favour of the undersigned as per group list will have to be deposited.

5. Name of offices where tender documents will be available : Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong/undersigned/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Comilla/B'baria/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Procurement Civil Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka and all the offices of Sub-Divisional Engineers under this Division.

6. Name of offices where tender documents will be received : Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Road Circle, Comilla/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka and office of the undersigned.

7. Time allowed : 120 (one hundred and twenty days) from the date of issue of work order.

8. Last date of selling tender : 09.12.98/25.08.1405 Bang till office hours.

9. Date and time of receiving tender : 10.12.98/26.08.1405 Bang till 12-30 PM.

10. Date and time of opening tender : 14.12.98/30.08.1405 Bang at 12.00 Noon.

11. Date and time of lottery : 15.12.98/01.09.1405 Bang at 1-30 PM.

12. Eligibility of contractors : From 'A' to 'D' special classes of contractors enlisted with R&H Directorate.

Md Nazmul Haque
Executive Engineer, R&H
(Current Charge)
Road Division, Chandpur

DFP-24764-23/11/98
G-2674

Hanu needs reexcavation

From Monojit Kumar Das

MAGURA, Nov 27: Hanu, a tributary of the river Gorai has now dried up turning into a woe of Sripur farmers.

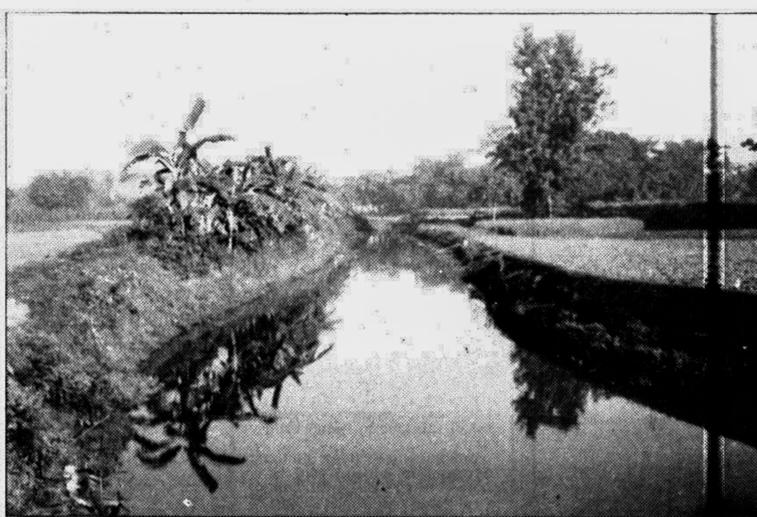
As a result, thousands of farmers on both sides of it are facing manifold problems including ecological and environmental ones.

Hanu originated from the Gorai at Bhatbaria village point. Now Bhatbaria village has been shifted on the opposite side of the Gorai due to its continued erosion.

Gour Chandra Basu, 85, an inhabitant of the same village said, the stream of Hanu was navigable during his childhood. It ran through the villages of Chakda, Nabagram, Chandikhali, Kalinagar, Chilar, Sachilapur, Radhanagar and again fell into the Gorai at Nakol village point in the same thana. The Hanu was about 25 km to 30 km long when it was navigable. About 60 to 65 years back the entry point of the Hanu became silted up disrupting its flow. Moreover, the embankment of the Ganges Kobadak Project (GKP) which was constructed in the early 60s crossed the tributary at its origin. This has disconnected the tributary with the Gorai.

According to the local sources, there were several 'beels' which were connected with the Hanu. The beels were Chakdah beel, Magrar beel, Sonatundir beel, Kadirapar beel, Ghasiarar beel, Sabadapur beel and Masalia beel. The water bodies were full of different types of sweet water fish like Koi, Magur, Sing, Sol, Taki, Boal, Ruhil, Kalia, Puti and Khaira. Due to death of the Hanu all the 'beels' have dried up. As a result, these varieties of fish are not available now.

The aged people told this correspondent that there had been some established village



MAGURA: Hanu, once a tributary of the river Gorai now a mere canal. — Star photo

markets on the bank of the Hanu. The village markets were Masalia, Rajapur, Sachilapur and Nakol. The cattle market of Masalia had been shifted to Langabandh which is situated on the bank of Gorai. Rajapur bazaar was also closed due to the same reason. Sachilapur and Radhanagar bazaars are existing due to road communication.

Boatmen, fishermen, porters and other people who were dependent on the river have become jobless now. Many of them changed their occupation. There were river ghat at Masalia, Dariapur, Radhanagar and Nakol. The ancestors of

Gopal Patni who operated ferry boats during the early period of the current century are still living at village Masalia. Now most of the members of Patni caste have changed their ancestral occupation. They are now blacksmiths.

While talking to a group of farmers including marginal and landless on the sides of Hanu, they told the correspondent that the farmers were not benefited from the Ganges Kobadak Project (GKP) after death of the Hanu. Hanu is now a small canal that needs reexcavation so that water can be stored round the year. The canal usually dries up in the

months of Magh and Falgun. The farmers have urged for construction of sluice gates for irrigation purposes. Some marginal and landless farmers at Kalinagar and Chilar villages in Amalsar union said, they have been facing manifold problems in cultivating crops like paddy and jute due to siltation of sands in the river bed. They are compelled to cultivate vegetables round the year. Their vegetables cultivation is also hampered in the dry season due to lack of water.

The farmers have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary arrangement for storing rain in the canal.