

News snaps

BKB realises loan

BARISAL, Aug 7: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Barisal region realised outstanding loan amount to taka 149.65 crore from the borrowers of 11 southern districts of the region in 1998-99 fiscal year, reports BSS.

A Bank source said the target was fixed at taka 140 crore in the last fiscal. Of the total amount, taka 14.44 crore was realised from Barisal, taka 6.03 crore from Jhalakati, taka 17.84 crore from Patuakhali, taka 11.90 crore from Pirojpur, taka 15.88 crore from Bhalua, taka 16.35 crore from Barguna, taka 17.89 crore from Faridpur, taka 13.19 crore from Gopalganj, taka 12.65 crore from Madaripur, taka 13.19 crore from Rajbari and taka 13.10 crore from Shariatpur. The recovery drive was launched from 191 branches of the bank of the Barisal region.

23 schemes being implemented

MADARIPUR, Aug 7: The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been implementing 23 schemes in sadar thana of Madaripur district at an allocation of taka 2.32 crore, reports BSS.

An official source said, the work of on-going schemes included construction of a road by HBB, maintenance of a road and carpeting of roads.

Workshop on forestry

BARISAL, Aug 7: A three-day workshop sponsored by the Environment and Forest Department concluded in Gournadi recently, reports BSS.

Harun-or Rashid, Conservator of Forest, Gournadi Forest Range, inaugurated the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to impart training to the members of the public on conservation of forest and grow more trees under social afforestation programme of the government. Gournadi Pouroshva chairman Golam Sarwar distributed certificates among the participants at the concluding function.

12 hurt in clash

BARISAL, Aug 7: A clash between two rival groups of villagers in Babuganj thana recently left at least 12 people injured, three seriously, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash between the two groups as one led by Dulal Sarder and another by Jalal Sader as took place at Bakshikati village over a land dispute. Three of the injured as Jamal, 40, Dulal, 24, and Shamsul, 45, as were hospitalised in critical condition.

Literacy drive progressing

MYMENSINGH, Aug 7: The total literacy movement (TLM) programme under the banner of 'Jagrata Mymensingh' is progressing satisfactorily in all the 10,549 centres set up for non-formal education in four thanas of the district, official sources and local people said, reports BSS.

The thanas are Bhaluka, Trishal, Fulbaria and Muktagacha. Some 24 monitoring teams formed with officials, advocates, doctors, teachers, journalists and social workers are now engaged for monitoring the activities of the centres twice in a week, which created a great enthusiasm among the illiterate people of villages. A total of 316453 illiterate both male and female of age 11 years to 45 years have been brought under the TLM programme.

Agriculture fair

KUSHTIA, Aug 7: A five-day Krishi Mela, agriculture fair, organised by Daulatpur thana Agriculture extension office concluded recently at Daulatpur thana complex premises, reports BSS.

Ashsanul Huq Mollah MP inaugurated the exhibition as he chief guest. Thana Nirbahi Officer of Daulatpur Jahangir Mollah attended the function as special guest. The inaugural function was presided over by A G M Zahiruddin, Thana agriculture Officer, Daulatpur.

Training workshop for teachers

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 7: A month-long training workshop for the primary school-teachers of Chapainawabganj district under 'intensive education for all' programme was held in different primary schools recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, a total of 175 primary teachers have been taking part in the training programme sponsored by the UNICEF. District and thana-level officers of the Primary Education Department have been imparting training to the trainees on various aspects of modern method of teachings.

Ansar and VDP rally

MADARIPUR, Aug 7: A rally of ansar and Village Defense Force (VDF) members of the district was held at recently Kulpaddi Ansar training ground at kalkini under Madaripur district, reports BSS.

A total of 480 ansar and VDF members participated in the rally. Deputy Commissioner Farhad Rahman and Deputy Director of Ansar and VDP M Shamsul Huq attended the rally as the chief guest and the special guest respectively. Certificates were distributed among the best ansar and VDF members of the four thanas of the district.

10 schemes progressing

CHUADANGA, Aug 7: The work on 10 schemes take up by the Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education in the four thanas of Chuadanga district will be completed soon, reports BSS.

The government allocated taka 2,02,33,000 for implementation of the schemes, an official source said. The schemes include construction of a 50-bed three-storied hostel building for Chuadanga Government Girls College, a three-storeid academic building for Chuadanga Government College, a three-room building for Chuadanga Old GM Madrasa, a two-room building for introducing vocational training course each at Jiban Nagar Boys High School, Jibannagar Girls high school, Daurkhuda Boy's high school and Alamdanga Boys High school, repair of Chandpur Government Primary School under Chuadanga Sadar thana, construction of a two-room building of Chuadanga Sadar thana, construction of a two-room building of Chuadanga Government Boys V J High School and a three-room building of Chuadanga Government Girls High School.

Sewing training course

PABNA, Aug 7: A month-long sewing training course for the poor women concluded recently at Iswardi under Pabna district, reports BSS.

The training course was organised by the Panashi (Pabna-Nator-Siranganj) Integrated Development Project of the BADCO for the destitute women of rural areas. One hundred destitute women from Lakmukunda union of Iswardi thana participated in the training. Md Moazzem Hossain, deputy chief of the Planning Commission distributed certificates among the participants on the concluding-day function. The function was addressed among others by Project Director of Panasi R K Mitra, Deputy Director Motiur Rahman and Executive Engineer of Pabna Region Imdadul huq.

Training workshop

MADARIPUR, Aug 7: The Agriculture Extension Directorate imparted training to 60 farmers on the cultivation of different crops under the Agriculture Diversification and Intensification Project in Madaripur district in the current rabi season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the Agriculture Department has been establishing 120 display farms in the four thanas of the district this year. Different types of crops and vegetables are being cultivated in these demonstration plots.

Alleged rapist arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 7: The police has arrested the accused of sensational Monwara rape case in village Kandapara, reports UNB.

Accused Abdul Jallil (45), a distant uncle of 5-year old Monwara, violated her when she went to his house on June 28. Hearing her cries, the neighbours rescued her and took to sadar hospital. Jallil went into hiding.

Local UP chairman Abdul Kader in arbitration punished Jallil with 100 lashes and a fine of Tk 50,000.

But following a case filed by her father, the police arrested Jallil Saturday night and produced before the court that sent him to jail hajat.

Nine criminals held

SYLHET, Aug 7: The police has arrested nine criminals, including a fugitive convict sentenced to jail for life, from Balaganj and Sadar thana, reports UNB. Balaganj police arrested Chunnun Mia who was sentenced to life in 1990 for murder of Masum Mia. The police also arrested 8 muggers from different parts of the town and recovered from them some arms and equipment.

Loadshedding makes life miserable in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 7: Loadshedding of electricity in the tourist town of Cox's Bazar and throughout the district has caused untold sufferings to the people and tourists during the last few months.

Everyday supply of electricity is kept off without any prior notice for certain periods. The inconvenience caused to the people due to frequent power disruptions is too much.

Mills and factories, business establishments, offices, banks, hotels, hospitals, deep and shallow tubewells with electricity connections are incurring heavy losses everyday.

The domestic consumers

have also been facing untold miseries during evening time everyday. They find no supply of electricity from six to the evening till about 10 at night.

They can neither cook food at night, nor they can look after their babies. They can not ask their school or college going sons and daughters to devote to their studies. As a result, the students are worst sufferers.

Local traders told this correspondent that the entire business community have been facing serious problems for want of electricity from six to 10 every night. Most of the businessmen are being com-

pelled to close down their shops soon after the sunset and this has been causing tremendous financial losses, alleged traders.

Only a few businessmen, however, have arranged generators for conducting their business, but they also find a few number of customers. The traders and customers both feel the sense of insecurity due to absence of street-lights.

For want of street lights people find it extremely risky to move out.

A mill owner told that, they have become the worst sufferers as production in all the mills and factories have fallen down

and the cost of production has gone high. They are compelled to retrench their labourers. They are also closing down their factories.

Agriculturists have told this correspondent, electricity is a must for irrigation work. But loadshedding is hampering their irrigation work very badly.

When contacted with the local PDB officials, they told that they were getting supply of only two megawatts of electricity everyday as against the need of about six megawatts daily in Cox's Bazar district and hence such inconvenience.

Irregularity in Modhumati dam repair work

Tk 6.86cr sanctioned for protection of CIP

CHANDPUR, Aug 7: The government has sanctioned Taka 6.86 crore for the protection of the Chandpur Irrigation Project (CIP) now threatened by erosion. It was disclosed by the Water Resources Secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda here on August 4, reports BSS.

The secretary visited the CIP at Taj Kharkandi point in Haimchar thana.

He directed the Water Development Board officials to work round-the-clock to save the CIP embankment now threatened by severe erosion.

The secretary was accompanied by senior officials of the ministry. He also met local elite at Chandpur circuit house.

UNB from Gupalganj said: There are allegations of massive irregularities in the repair work of the flood protection embankment of the Modhumoti river.

The Water Development Board (WDB) has taken up a Tk 12 crore project for repairing the embankment that was badly damaged by floods last year, official sources said.

Local people alleged that low-quality stone and sand were being used instead of those from Sylhet for making slabs violating the tender condition.

Due to the use of low quality materials, the blocks are not cemented properly and those

broke down during piling in the riverbank, they said.

They also alleged that dishonest contractors of the project in collusion with a section of unscrupulous officials of the WDB were making huge money by using low standard materials for the repair work.

The way the repair work is proceeding now is nothing but a farce in the name of flood control," said a local people on condition of anonymity.

On the pretext of repairing the six kilometres of damaged embankment from Haridaspur to Bherav Bazar, WDB is dumping money into the Modhumoti, he alleged.



The Netherlands government has undertaken a scheme on experimental basis to check the erosion at Haimchar by placing geo-textile clothes on the eroded area. —Star photo

Continued erosion at Haimchar raises great alarm

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, Aug 7: Erosion by the River Meghna at Haimchar has been continuing alarmingly for the last several days.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Chandpur office sources, about 500 metres area of CIP embankment has been devoured in the Meghna at Taskerkhand and Char Bhairabi points. So the existence of the embankment has already been endangered.

CIP's main embankment is located in Haimchar on the bank of the River Meghna. About two thousand acres of land were eroded within one month and about 10 thousand people rendered homeless. These people have taken shelter on the CIP embankment. They are living a sub-human life on the embankment. Relief and other helps are yet to reach them.

The erosion is not only threatening the CIP embank-

ment, but it is also threatening the existence of 200 years old thana headquarters. About sixty percent areas of Haimchar thana has already been eroded.

Md Aminul Islam, Executive

Engineer, BWDB, told this correspondent that the protection work is progressing rapidly in the affected areas. Blocks were dumped in the eroded area. The government sanction is too meagre to protect the embankment from the recurring erosion. BWDB has suggested a plan to protect CIP at a cost of Tk 50 crore.

The BWDB officials are now working round the clock to repair the cracks on the embankment.

The district administration appealed to the ministry concerned and the authorities concerned about the alarming condition of CIP. An emergency meeting was held recently in the DC's office to find out the ways and means if the embankment is eroded. People within CIP are panicky. Some people within the embankment area have already taken shelter on the embankment and other higher lands.

10 BDRCS teams in Comilla

Ten medical teams of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) are working in the flood-affected areas in Comilla district to reach medical services to the people since Sunday, reports BSS.

Each medical team comprises a doctor, a paramedic, a midwife and a representative of local Youth Red Crescent Society, a BDRCS press release said.

Of the medical teams, five are in Burichang, two in Chandina and three in Debidwar.

The teams are rendering medical services in association with local unit of Red Crescent Society and local administration, the press release added.

Decision protested

RAJSHAHI, Aug 7: The government decision to shift the Operation and Maintenance Department-2 of Water Development Board (WDB) from here to Chapainawabganj has evoked a strong protest from the local leaders, reports UNB.

A resistance committee formed earlier holds an emergency meeting on Thursday to finalise action programme against the government decision.

Representatives from all political parties, various professions and Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Fazle Hossain Badsha of the Left Front, Syed Shahadat Hossain of Awami League, Enamul-Haq of CPB and Ferdous Kamal Masum of Workers Party have joined the movement.

The committee has demanded a separate department at Chapainawabganj, early implementation of all development projects, including reconstruction of 18-km Rajshahi town protection embankment and the Rajshahi irrigation project.

Water Resources Ministry has ordered the shifting of the Operation and Maintenance Department that reached the Chief Engineer on July 13. The local leaders met in vain with the Water Resources Minister in Dhaka on July 26 seeking withdrawal of the order.

Work on 2 CU buildings progressing

CHITTAGONG, Aug 7: The construction work of the third and fourth academic buildings at Chittagong University is in progress in full swing, reports BSS.

The third academic building for the Social Science Faculty is being constructed at a cost of Taka 14 crore 70 thousand while the fourth academic building for Commerce Faculty is being constructed at an estimated cost of Taka 12.44 crore.

The construction work of the two academic buildings which began in July 30 last year, is expected to be completed by May 2001 and June 2000 respectively, the sources further said.

More than four thousand students of the Social Science and Commerce Faculties will be benefited with academic amenities and other facilities with the completion of the third and fourth academic buildings.

Students of Social Science and Commerce Faculties of the Chittagong University have been facing acute accommodation problems including shortage of classrooms, reading rooms and teachers rooms for many years.

Security tightened

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 7: Security measures were reportedly strengthened in Noormagar sub-jail following unrest among inmates on Monday. The unrest was created due to accommodation problem said deputy jailer and now in charge of the sub-jail.

But according to a reliable source, authorities of the sub-jail are apprehending untoward situation due to frequent quarrels between rival groups of inmates who had previous enmity.

The inmates, who recently gave up underworld activities following government amnesty accused the sub-jail staff of misbehaving with prisoners.

But the deputy jailer denied the accusation and blamed surrendered terrorists for trying to create uneasy situation in the sub-jail.

667 bottles of phensidyl, liquor seized in Khulna

KHULNA, Aug 7: Police seized 667 bottles of phensidyl syrup and liquor worth Tk 51,325 from the bathroom of a train compartment at city Rail Station on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police raided Simanta Express at the instruction from the Deputy Commissioner at 10 am and recovered 615 bottles of phensidyl and 52 bottles of beer.

The smugglers, however, managed to flee with some of illegal drugs after sensing the arrival of police. The seized goods will be destroyed in front of a Magistrate, officials said.

Events of districts in picture



Healthy nation needs healthy babies:Rajshahi City Corporation and United Nations Children's Fund jointly brought out a colourful rally in Rajshahi city recently on the occasion of Breastfeeding Week '99. —Star photo



Health for All: A colourful procession was brought out in Jhenidah recently on the occasion of World Health Day. —Star photo



The 301st branch of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank was opened by local MP Waziduddin Khan at Handial Bazaar in Chatmohar thana of Pabna district on July 27 last. Among others, Nurul Islam Khan, GM (Admin), F R M Hafizul Islam, GM (Management), M U Anwar, Pabna zonal manager, Sadar Ali Biswas, Thana Nirbahi Officer of Chatmohar, were present there. A total of 155 people opened accounts in the new bank on the first day depositing about Taka six lakh. —Star photo



A discussion meeting on the problems and prospects of fish culture was arranged in Magura town recently on the occasion of Fisheries Week here. —Star photo



Unfair payment?: Hundreds of day labourers assemble at different weekly hats and bazaars of Jhenidah district from Bera, Ullapara, Sirajganj,Belkuchi and Sahjadpur in greater Pabna district, Khoksa and Kumarkhali in Kushtia district and Pangsha, Boalmari and Goalondo thanas of Rajbari district.Each of them are paid only Taka 40 daily for their hard toil which is quite insufficient in these hard days. Some day labourers are waiting at Saikupa bazaar to sell their labour. —Star photo



Maize farming has gained popularity in Jhenidah in recent days.Photo shows a farmer carrying a basket full of maize toward a bazaar at village Chatura in Saikupa thana. —Star photo



Padma erosion has turned serious recently in Bablabon area of Rajshahi city. —Star photo