

## National

## Mourning Day observed

By Staff Correspondent

The National Mourning Day, commemorating the 25th martyrdom of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed on Tuesday in districts with due respect and solemnity.

In observance of the day people of all walks of life in Chittagong paid their glowing tributes to the great leader who was the architect of independent Bangladesh. They also demanded immediate execution of the verdict of the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Different political parties, their front organizations, educational institutions, professional bodies and trade unions have drawn up elaborate programmes in observance of the day. The programmes of the day was heralded with hoisting of the national flag at half mast atop all public and private buildings and placing of wreaths at the portrait of the father of the nation.

A big mourning procession under the joint auspices of Chittagong City Awami League, Bangladesh Mohila AL, Bangabandhu Parishad and Jatiya Sramik League was brought out from Muslim Institute Hall here on Tuesday morning. Led by City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University the procession has passed through some important city roads.

As part of the three-day programmes of Chittagong City Corporation, Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury along with the officers and employees place wreaths at the portrait of the father of the nation at the corporation building on Tuesday morning.

Other programmes of the day included hoisting of the national and corporation flags at half mast atop all corporation buildings, award offices and all educational institutions, wearing of black badges, milad mahfil, special pavers, discussions and distribution of tabaruk.

District administration organised a discussion at Shishu Academy auditorium with deputy commissioner in the chair.

Rest of the amount would be distributed among the poor people by August 31.

The department distributed the money at a function, jointly organised by the Social Welfare Department, Women and Children Affairs Ministry and the Islamic Foundation, in the GT High School premises here to mark the occasion.

Minister of State for Social

Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain, Minister of State for Women and Children Affairs Prof Zinatunnesa Talukder, Social Welfare Secretary Dr Khanada Mohan Das and Director General of Islamic Foundation Maulana Abdul Awal spoke on the occasion.

A voluntary blood donation programme was held at the local Shaheed Hadi Park arranged under the auspices of Khulna Civil Surgeon and Sandhoni Doctors Club.

Awami League and district administration have taken separate programmes to mark the day.

Khulna University held a day-long programme which included milad mahfil and discussion.

Special prayer was held in all mosques and other places of worship for peace and progress of the country.

Regional daily newspapers published special supplements and Bangladesh Betar Khulna station, put up special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

Meanwhile, Chief Whip Abu Hasnat Abdullah, along with leaders of Barisal district unit of Bangladesh Awami League and its front organisations, visited the Mazar of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara on Tuesday as a part of observance of the National Mourning Day.

The leaders and workers offered Fateha at the Mazar and prayed for peace of the departed soul of the great leader and those of others who were killed brutally by some misguided army personnel on the black night of August 15, 1975.

The group comprising several hundred leaders and workers led by the Chief Whip returned to Barisal in the evening.

From Tungipara says: Social Welfare Department on Tuesday distributed over Taka 5.50 lakh among distressed people as part of its Taka 10.50 lakh welfare programmes on the occasion of the National Mourning Day.

District administration served improved diet to the inmates of local jail and orphans as part of the programme.

The day was also observed in different upazila headquarters in a befitting manner. A Taka 4.20 lakh interest free loan was disbursed among 54 unemployed youths at Zurakhari Uazila headquarters.

Similar befitting programmes were arranged in all other districts in observance of the day.

## News snaps

## Two fish traders still missing

From Our Correspondent  
NETRAKONA, Aug 16: Two out of five fish traders remained still missing while bodies of three others were recovered by Madan thana police from Baral haor under Madan upazila on Saturday evening.

The missing fish traders are Khalir, 40, and Rubel, 33, while the dead are Golam Kibria, 35, Mainul Haque, 38, and Titon, 33. They were suspected to be killed by strangulation. Police sources said, five persons were jointly running their fish trading. They set for business purpose on August 7 last towards Mohongonj by boat. Local people found the floating bodies at Machuakanda of Baral haor and informed Madan thana police who rushed to the spot and recovered the dead bodies. The bodies were sent to Netrakona Sadar Hospital for postmortem. A murder case was registered with Madan police station, but none was arrested so far. It may be mentioned here that the dead Minul and Titon were brothers.

## Baseless rumour on dengue

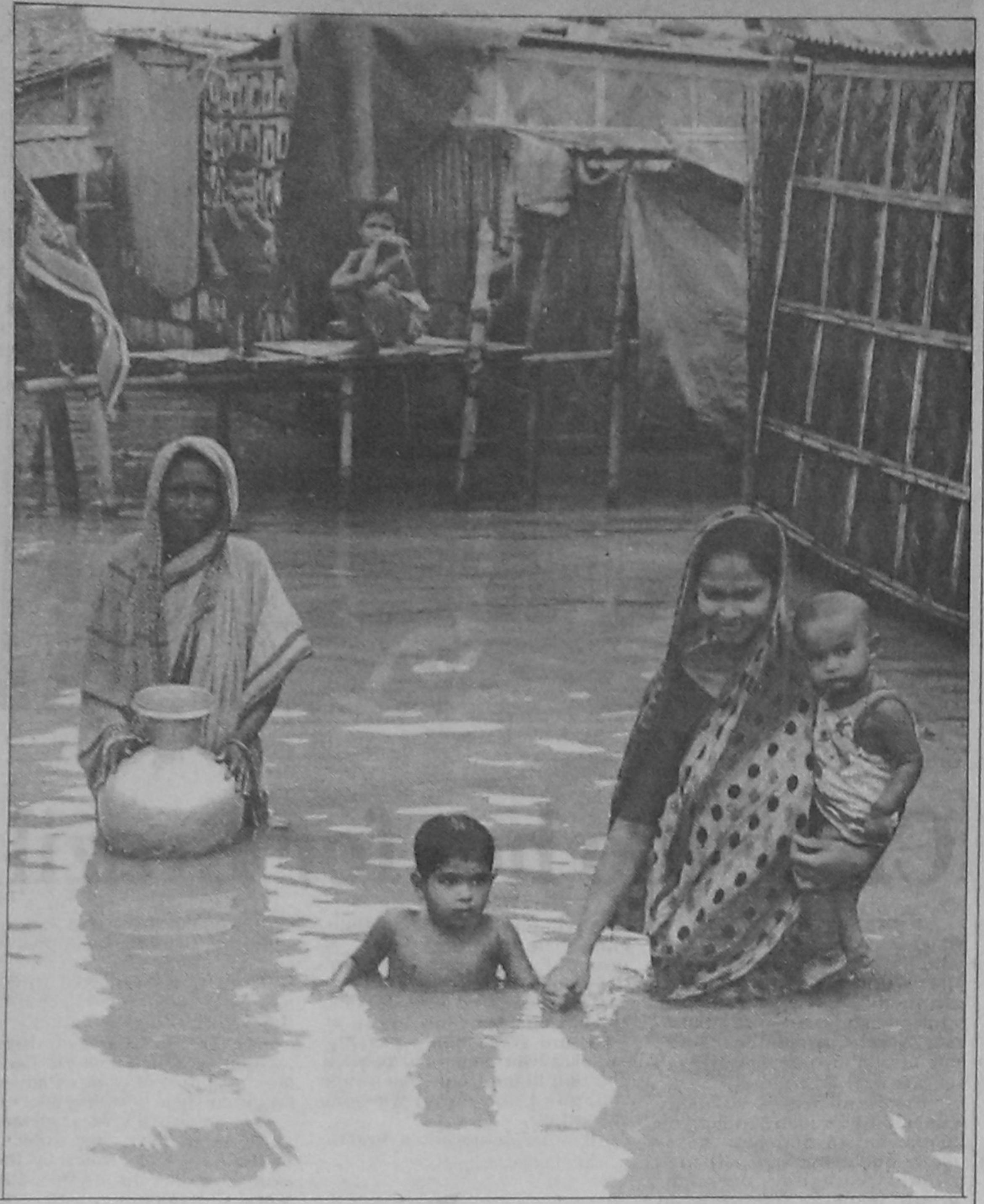
From Our Correspondent  
SIRAJGANJ, Aug 16: The inhabitants here have become panic stricken because of a rumour about spread of dengue fever.

The people now apprehend all kinds of fever as dengue. Even one youth named Ripon of Kala died of heart failure but it has been spread that he had died of dengue fever. Having been alarmed by such rumour, the common people who are attacked by common fever throng to the local hospitals and health complexes. When contacted the Sirajganj Civil Surgeon Dr. M. Mohaddess Hossain told this correspondent that no dengue patient had been found in the district till now. He added that all doctors, para-medics and concerned staffers are now very active in combating the disease, if found anywhere else in the district. A control room has been opened to combat the disease, he added.

## Massive development programme

BOGRA, Aug 16: Rural Poverty Alleviation Foundation, emerging as separate entity, has taken a massive economic and social development programme to uplift the poor, landless people of Bogra district recently, reports BSS.

With this view in mind the foundation, Bogra region invested Taka 6273.55 lakh among 25,175 members including 22,729 female members of 1,184 groups in 11 upazilas. A total of Taka 5,505.47 lakh calculated about 97 per cent of the amount due, has so far been realised. Foundation sources said that arrangement were also been made to train up the target members with modern technique of vegetable cultivation, nursery, pisciculture, beef fattening, poultry farming, cattle and goat raising. A six-member technical resource team of agriculture graduates has been imparting a 4 days training in phases to a 35-member batch.



Submerged homesteads at Samurbari village under Louhajang upazila in Munshiganj district where flood situation is gradually improving.

—Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## A different bazaar

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Aug 16: There is a bazaar in Rajshahi which is called Bou-Bazar.

"Bou" means "wife" and "bazar" means "Market". So Bou-Bazar means "wife market". But one must not make a mistake thinking that wives are sold and bought here, rather it is factually a market where both the sellers and buyers are women, mostly housewives.

The market sits everyday in the early morning on the by-lane which starts from the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway and passes to the north through in between Ramchandrapur in the west and Raninagar in the last of the city. It is about one and a half kilometers away from Shahebazar, the main and the biggest market in the city and only about two kilometers away from Talaipuri market.

The market is extending everyday alongside the by-lane covering also some fallow lands possessed by private owners. Several thousand women come here to sell and buy their daily commodities everyday.

We are often cheated in other markets," said Suraiya Akhter of Ramchandrapur. "But Bou-Bazar has become renowned, for just price and weight."

The situation, however, is aggravating slowly. The market is rapidly growing and becoming overcrowded. Male sellers and buyers are also seen, though in very less in number till now. Cleanliness and sanitation are being seriously hampered.

All the sellers and buyers who were contacted by this correspondent have demanded that males might be prohibited from going to Bou-Bazar.

Both the sellers and buyers of Bou-Bazar had been hundred percent local people of Ramchandrapur, Raninagar and Ahmedpur. But now-a-days many other people from the surrounding areas come to the market. A very few males are also seen in the market in the recent days.

Some local people, however, have demanded that the market should be transferred from the residential area. "We are facing problems now-a-days as a large number of people gather here blocking the road," said Aminul Islam of Ramchandrapur.

Begum Roswan Ara Mahmud, a housewife of a college



A different type of market in Rajshahi city where both the sellers and buyers are women. —Star photo

## Run-up to JS polls starts in Rangpur

From Mozammel Huq

RANGPUR, Aug 16: Some probable candidates here for the next parliamentary elections have started lobbying party high-ups and exchanging greetings with voters, observers in local political circle said.

Tenure of the government will expire in July 2001.

According to sources, Jatiya Party (Ershad) will field candidates in all six constituencies in the district, the stronghold of the party.

JP (Ershad) chief former president HM Ershad will contest in two seats- Rangpur Sadar (his

present constituency) and Pirojganj. Incumbent MP belonging to JP (Ershad) Karim Uddin Bharasa will contest in his own constituency Kanaria-Pirojganj. In the rest three seats, the prospective JP (Ershad) candidates are yet to be known.

The rebel faction of JP, known as JP (M-M), is also planning to field candidates in all the seats here. Stalwart of the party Sharif Ahmed Jhantoo MP will contest in his Gangachara constituency. Noor Mohammad Mondal MP, who sided with JP (M-M), will contest in his Pirojganj

constituency.

Ruling Awami League district unit secretary Advocate Elias Ahmed said the party is looking for prospective and acceptable candidates for the next polls. Meanwhile, Tipu Munshi, a prospective candidate of Awami League, has already started seeking blessings from voters in Pirojganj-Kauna constituency. Tipu Munshi, a renowned industrialist, was a freedom fighter. He has involved himself in philanthropic activities. He had constructed a hospital at Mahiganj in Rangpur town.

Main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami have no confirmed candidates at present as the district leaders are waiting for instructions of high command. But it is almost certain that district leader Rahim Uddin Bharasa will get nomination from Kauna-Pirojganj. Rahim Uddin Bharasa, brother of Karim Uddin Bharasa, was elected MP from the seat in 1997 general election.

Jamaat-e-Islami source said Principal Shah Ruhul Islam is the prospective candidate of the party for Gangachara seat.

## Pests attack jute

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 16: Pests have attacked jute crop in Sadullapur upazila in the district, much to the disappointment of farmers.

Pests have attacked mainly tosa variety of jute in the upazila, growers said.

Bottom stalk of jute plants is rotting because of the attack, farmers said. A plant is dying within three days after it is attacked with pests, they added.

Besides, inadequate rainfall has been attributed to the slow growth of the plants.

Growers of the area are yet to get any help from Agricultural Department.

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মোঃ ইকবাল হোসেন মজুমদার

নির্বাচনী প্রক্রিয়া

নির্মাণ বিভাগ

চট্টগ্রাম উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ