



Water remains stagnant in many parts of the divisional town of Sylhet, even after a moderate rainfall due to faulty drainage system. Photo shows the submerged (left) Kalighat Road in front of Government High Pilot School and (right) Hassan Market following a light rain recently.

Faulty drainage causes people's sufferings

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Aug 18: Because of lack of proper drainage system and poor condition of roads, sufferings of the town dwellers go beyond description during the ongoing rainy season.

Most important roads of the district town are flooded after slight or moderate rainfall. It takes a remarkable time to recede the rain water the pitiable condition of Machhua bazar, Boro bazar, Ganginarpar Road, Durgabari, Station Road, Aampatti, Swadesh Bazaar Road become bad to worse when mud and garbage are mixed after slight rainfall. The area wears a very pitiable look when the workers lift sewerage and pile up it for the days together and after rainfall it is spread on the roads and footpaths creating a sufferings to the people. Due to lack of proper cover on the sewers, the town dwellers experience sewerages every moment when they use such roads.

As most of the roads are low, rain waters enter into the business establishments carrying garbage. After heavy rainfall, Ganginarpar, Durgabari and Station Road area look like a flood



Slight rainfalls have flooded the Ganginarpar area, centre of Mymensingh town due to unplanned drainage system.

hit area. Machhua bazar, the old business centre of the town remains always dirty vegetables market, fish market and other daily

essentials are sold here, but garbage of the area is not cleaned up regularly properly, alleged some businessmen. They also told The Daily Star that it is a

chronic problem and the authorities concerned are totally indifferent to the problem. Conditions of other 'kutcha bazars' are same, but no steps are taken as yet.

—Star photo

Traditional fishes vanishing

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 18: The traditional fishes are disappearing from rural markets. Scarcity of fish became extremely acute throughout the district.

Earlier it was noticed that supply of fish became abundant and also considerably cheaper during the rainy season. This year, however, the supply of fish is extremely meagre and it is being considered an exceptional phenomenon. Prices of fishes are also too high.

Once Cox's Bazar district known as a district of abundant fishes, meat, eggs and milk. This is now a matter of history. Specially since the mid-seventies, when canal digging programme was taken at national level, fishes virtually began to disappear.

It is stated by the fishermen that these unplanned digging of

canals caused irreparable damage to the traditional ponds, beels and small rivers from where water was irrigated to the fields and thus these original sources of surface water got silted.

Secondly, due to massive cultivation of quick-growing crops like Irri-Boro Paddy increasing use of chemical fertilisers, fish in these almost silted rivers and canals diminish.

Thirdly, main source of water derived from traditional rainfalls in the rainy season, has also been virtually fallen due to abnormal shortfall of rain water almost every year.

Furthermore, extra water is not coming down from the hilly areas and have culminated in massive siltation of all big and small sources of water and thus fish cultivation has been ren-

dered virtually impossible.

Over and above, hundreds of ponds throughout the district have been filled in by real estate agencies for residential purposes both in urban and rural areas. Thus heavy damages have been done to the cultivation of fish.

The big rivers namely the Bakkhali, the Matamuhuri and the Naaf have also gone dry and innumerable shoals have already appeared which, in turn, have also caused damage to fish cultivation.

The ultimate result is that the cultivation of fish has been almost rendered impossible due to the siltation of traditional rivers, beels, canals and ponds and hence severe scarcity of fish is being noticed everywhere.

Thus there is no fish in the rural markets. Traditional supply

of protein is no more here and this calls for immediate arrangements for huge and large-scale cultivation of fish by creating new sources of water and its preservation.

Alternative measures are also needed like large-scale marketing of sea fish and at the same time, production of quick growing fish of foreign origin and also adoption of drastic measures against fishing of immature fries.

Disappearance of fish from the market has, in turn, caused massive unemployment of fishermen, many of whom are being compelled to opt for alternative profession or migration to big cities.

These are causing huge loss to the fish cultivation. Efforts are needed to protect the fisherman community.

Minister for appointment of judges on HR records

NARAIL, Aug 18: Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru on Thursday said the judges should be appointed on the basis of their records of sacrifice in establishing human rights in society, reports BSS.

"Only the committed lawyers and judges jointly could help ensure protection of human rights in the country," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Human Rights and Role of Lawyers' at Narail District Judge Court premises.

Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister M Amir-ul-Islam presented the keynote paper in the seminar, jointly organised by Bangladesh Bar Council and Narail District Bar Association.

Khan Tipu Sultan, MP, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Bar Council, Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman, Bar Council Member, Advocate Syed Ahmed and Narail District Bar Secretary SM Abdul Huq also spoke at the function while President of the District Bar Sayef Hafizur Rahman Khokon chaired the occasion.

Khasru said even in South Africa a judge has to show his records of sacrifice for humanity before his appointment as a judge of that country. He, however, said the concept of human rights varies between the developed and the poor countries. "In South Asian part most of the people used to feel happy if they have the access to food."

He said in Bangladesh extreme poverty and illiteracy act as the main impediments for human rights violation. Women and children, he said, are the worst victims of human rights violation in the country. So the present government has attached priority to economic emancipation as well as to free the country from the curse of illiteracy.

The minister said Article 3 and 11 enshrined in the Constitution have provisions for protection of human rights. The lawyers have to come forward to help people protect their rights. "Lawyers have to play the leading role in this regard. He also underscored the need for creating awareness about the fundamental rights of each citizen."

Barrister Islam said after the independence of the country, the gross violation of human rights was committed on August 15 in

1975 with the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members including child Russel. Still human rights are being violated in many forms in society. Terrorism, he said, is the worst form of violation of human rights in the country.

He said freedom of speech could help protect rights of each individual.

Referring to recent controversy of the Prime Minister's remarks on terrorism which involves judiciary, Barrister Islam said each citizen of the country has the right to express his or her views. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exercised her rights," he said and added that there was nothing to make it controversial.

He said if the prime minister really told something against the court, the headache goes to the court, not to anybody else.

Syed Rezaur Rahman said human rights would not be protected in the country unless the killers of Bangabandhu are hanged.

Hunger strike

KURIGRAM, Aug 18: Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Kurigram district unit, organised a hunger strike on Monday at the Central Shaheed Minar premises demanding immediate execution of the court verdict on the killers of Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

The President and the Secretary (in-charge) of district AL, leaders and activists of different socio-cultural organisations broke their hunger strike at 5 pm when they were assured of legal actions as per law of the land.

The district unit of BCL brought out a huge protest procession from Kurigram Government College at 10 am which paraded the streets of the town demanding implementation of the court verdict on Bangabandhu murder case. Hundreds of BCL leaders and activists from all over the district took part in the procession.

Later, a protest meeting demanding immediate execution of the verdict was held at Central Shaheed Minar, which was chaired by Anisur Rahman Tipu, President of district unit of BCL.

News snaps

Scholarship distributed

BANCHHAMPUR, (Brahmanbaria), Aug 18: Banchhampur Thana Kalayan Samity has distributed scholarship money to meritorious and poor students of different schools of the upazila recently reports BSS.

The Samity gives scholarship to meritorious and poor students of different schools every year. The money this time was distributed at a function held at the upazila sadar Auditorium, which was presided over by Samity President former Additional Inspector General of Police MA Khaleque. TNO M Israfil Khondaker attended the function as the chief guest. Others who attended the function included Abdul Momen, Major Abdul Manna, Engineer Abul Hossain, Mohammad Mofakher and MA Muhith.

Two electrocuted

COMILLA, Aug 18: An old man and his son were electrocuted at Solakandi village in Daudkandi upazila on Sunday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Shamsul Haq, 55, and his son Nurul Alam met the tragic end of their lives as they came in touch with a live wire while going to Gouripur Bazaar in a boat. Another report adds: Fourteen shops and valuables worth about Tk 15 lakh were damaged in a fire at Chakbazar in the town on Sunday. Witnesses said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at about 5 am and soon engulfed the bazaar. Firefighters with the help of local people put out the blaze.

Loan piles up

BOGRA, Aug 18: Some 414 cooperatives here owe Tk 3 crore to local Cooperative Bank as farmers have been unable to repay their outstanding loan, reports UNB.

Bank sources said members of different cooperatives registered with the bank and borrowed farm loan amounting to Tk 94,09,972 on various occasions. The outstanding loan of the Cooperative Bank continued to heap up as the government in 1991 had waived interests and farm loan up to Tk 5,000. But the exemption was not applicable for the Cooperative Banks. A case in this connection is now pending in the High Court.

Killers get life term

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 18: A court here has sentenced two brothers to life term imprisonment and acquitted 44 others in a murder case, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts -- Kala Miah and Jinnah -- Tk 5,000 each with a provision to suffer five years more RI in default. According to the prosecution the convicts killed SI Abul Kasem with sharp weapons when he went to Dakkhin Abdullahpur village to arrest Kala Miah in connection with a case on March 2, 1990. After examining the records and witnesses, the Additional District and Sessions Judge pronounced the judgement on Aug 9.

Level-crossing renovated

COMILLA, Aug 18: Four level-crossings in Sadar upazila here are being renovated at a cost of 30 lakhs, reports UNB.

The level-crossings are located at Paduabazar and Kotebari on Dhaka-Chittagong highway and Dharmapur and Sahshangacha in the town.

Young girl commits suicide

MANIKGANJ, Aug 18: A young girl allegedly committed suicide at Hajipur village in Sattaria upazila on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Sadhana Sutradhar, 16, daughter of Narayan Sutradhar of the village took her own life by hanging herself with a scarf. A rape attempt on Sadhana by one of their neighbours was said to be the reason behind her suicide. A UD case was filed.

Accused arrested

BOGRA, Aug 18: Police arrested the main accused of the sensational Jasmine murder case Saturday night after nearly 45 days of the killing, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Jasmine's husband Humayun Rashid alias Shishu of Namajgarh area in the town who had burned her to death on May 27 for dowry.

2nd tea garden in Panchagarh

PANCHAGARH, Aug 18: In an effort to create a third tea producing zone in the country some private entrepreneurs came forward to setup tea gardens here, reports UNB.

'Kazi and Kazi Tea Estate' the second tea garden was inaugurated on 570 acres of land on the bank of the river Dahuk in Tentulia upazila here on August 6. Proprietor of the estate Kazi Shahed Ahmed inaugurated the estate while Kazi Amena Ahmed planted the first sapling in the garden. Kazi Shahed said at the initial stage tea saplings would be planted on 50 acres during the current year and it would be a full-fledged garden by next year.

Shelter for homeless

BOGRA, Aug 18: Under the countrywide government project to provide shelter to the homeless people five barrack houses have been constructed under Joybhog Asrayan project in Gabtali upazila, reports UNB.

The construction work began on May 25 this year and concluded on July 18. Members of Bangladesh Army constructed the houses on government khas land at a cost of over Tk 20 lakh and handed over the management of the houses to the local upazila authorities. These barrack houses will be distributed among 50 homeless families of the upazila, official sources said.

A profitable concern

BOGRA, Aug 18: After incurring huge loss for long Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) local unit turned into a profitable concern in last three years, reports UNB.

Official sources said BRTC local depot earned Tk 1.01 crore during the last three years and deposited Tk 77 lakh with its head office after repaying its local loan. Following the reshuffle of its management and relentless efforts by its employees helped the organisation to be a profit earning one. At present 30 BRTC vehicles are running on 19 routes here and the number of passengers have increased substantially following improvement of its service.

Two outlaws arrested

BAGERHAT, Aug 18: Two activists of an outlawed party were arrested from Katakali in Fakirhat upazila here on Sunday night, reports UNB.

The arrested are: Sher Ali, 30, of the Haria village in Fakirhat upazila and Shohag Hossain, 27, of Shihaspura in Pirojpur district. Police said the arrested were the active members of outlawed Furba Banglar Communist Party. A case was filed with the police.

Three commit suicide

JHENIDAH, Aug 18: Three people including a teenage girl allegedly committed suicide here, police said on Wednesday, reports UNB.

They were identified as Shumi, 18, daughter of Ramsundor of Salemandpur village in Kotchandpur upazila, Afroza Khatoun, wife of Montaz Ali of Kanchannagar village and Jashim Uddin, 10, son of Bacchu Mia of Muraridigha village in Sadar upazila. Police and family sources said that Shumi allegedly committed suicide by jumping under a running train on August 8 as she failed to come up successfully in the last SSC examination and her marriage could not be held for incapability of her parents to pay dowry. In another incident, Jashim Uddin allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides on August 9 when his parents rebuked him for a trifling matter. In yet another incident, Afroza Khatoun allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on the same day following a family feud.

Attack by gunmen

BANDARBAN, Aug 18: Unidentified gunmen shot at Azizul Haque Talukder, president of Baisbari Union in Nalkhangchhari upazila here on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said the terrorists opened fire on him suspecting that he used to work as a police source. He was admitted to Dulazara Hospital and later shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Nalkhangchhari upazila police arrested Tofazzal Hossain in connection with the incident. Meanwhile, district BNP leaders in an emergency meeting here on Monday demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the gunmen.

Trawler sinks in Bay

BARISAL, Aug 18: Fishing trawler FB Siraj Akhtar sank in the deep Bay of Bengal near Mahipur with eight fishermen, hauled fish, net and other equipment on Monday. Owner of the fishing trawler, Abu Yusuf Khan of Allpur, told police that the trawler sank when it was returning after catching fish in the deep sea due to heavy rolling and cross current, reports BSS.

The fishermen swam ashore somehow but the trawler could not be salvaged.

Rajshahi Shishu Centre : A boon to poor children

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Aug 18: "To spend life gossiping and sitting idle cannot be expected from a conscious and able human being. Each and everybody should do what he can according to his ability till the last hours of his life."

Maintaining this motto of his life, Dr Sadeque Uddin Ahmed in his retired life established Rajshahi Shishu Centre (RSC), a social welfare organisation working for children.

RSC has already set a glorious and praiseworthy example in

giving primary healthcare education to the non-privileged and poor children in the city. It gives prescriptions, medicines, investigation facilities and advice on primary healthcare, nutrition and environment to the target people free of cost.

Rajshahi Shishu Centre is situated at satellite town, a respectable residential area of the city. The beautiful campus of the centre is very spectacular, gracious and environmentally healthy with flower-gardens, fruit-trees and field of green

grass.

RSC started functioning in October 1, 1994. Eminent educationist and social worker Dr Sadeque Uddin Ahmed established the centre in the ground floor of his residential two-storied building with his own funds. Dr Sadeque was the Associate Professor in Botany of Rajshahi University, Associate Professor of Genetics and Plant Breeding in the Department of Botany and Microbiology in the University of Kuwait and Director of Bangladesh Sericulture Research and

Training Institute. After retirement, he also served as the Project Director and the first Principal of Rajshahi Agriculture College. Now he has kept himself active and busy as the Director of Rajshahi Shishu Centre. In addition to his official duties in the centre, Dr Sadeque works in the gardens every morning and afternoon.

A doctor having trained in paediatrics, a nurse-cum-laboratory technician and a peon-cum-gatekeeper serve in the centre.

Only the registered patients are given service here completely free of cost. Number of registered children stood at about 6,000 this week. Two to three new children take registration everyday.

"We had to see up to more than 100 patients a day in the early months. It became almost impossible for our too short manpower to serve such huge number of patients properly. It had also adversely affected our funds," said Dr Sadeque. So some restriction have been imposed.

"As it is not possible for us to increase the manpower and raise the budget just now, we have imposed these restrictions to keep the number of patients within the acceptable range of our capability," he said informing that patients including both new and old ones coming everyday to the centre do not now exceed 50 in number.

According to the restrictions imposed, a patient should be of below three months of age, must show birth registration and immunisation cards to get registration and should follow the advice and guides given regarding health

and environment.

These restrictions have resulted in mentionable increase in immunisation and helped the patients' families lead a regular and healthy life to some extent, Dr Sadeque said.

Dr Nazib, Medical Officer of the centre, informed that most patients came with respiratory, gastro-intestinal, skin, eye, ENT and nutritional problems.

"These diseases are mainly results of poverty and lack of knowledge of primary healthcare and environment," he said.

So they give much emphasis on health education. "We monitor and follow up whether our healthcare advices are properly followed or not. Sometimes we even threat the parents of cancelling registrations of their children for not properly following our advices," he said and added, "This usually brings good results."

No fee is charged for registration. A separate file for each child with a brief history of his health and diseases is opened and preserved. Later on when the child come to get advice or treatment, shows the registration card then his file is sent to the doctor for taking necessary measures.

Rajshahi Shishu Centre has a pathological laboratory. Some common investigations of blood, stool and urine are done here free of cost.

The centre remains open from 8 am to 12 noon everyday except Friday and other government holidays.

Dr Sadeque himself bears all the expenditures of the centre. "My aim is to satisfy Allah through service to the humanity", he solemnly said.



(Left-above) A view of Rajshahi Shishu Centre; (left-below) Mothers are seen with their children in a queue at the dispensary of the centre; (right) Dr Sadeque Uddin Ahmed, founder and director of the centre.

—Star photo