

Upazila roundup

SHERPUR
Drinking water scarce

June 17: Paucity of drinking water has been persisting in Jhenaidah upazila causing serious sufferings to the villagers, reports UNB.

Officials said the scarcity was caused after nearly 200 tubewells went out of order due to lack of spare parts in the upazila.

According to sources, the villagers are being compelled to take water from nearby ponds and canals giving rise to various water-borne diseases.

Local people urged the authorities to take immediate measures to ensure safe water supply to the upazila.

DINAJPUR
Smuggled goods recovered

June 17: The Bangladesh Rifles personnel of Dinajpur sector recovered different kinds of smuggled goods worth about Taka 2.34 crore during the last one year.

According to the report, the Sector Headquarters of Dinajpur Kuthbari, 8,16,11 and 23 battalions of the sector recovered different kinds of smuggled goods worth about Taka 2,33,85,256 in 1990.

Of the total goods, only the 16 No. Rifles Battalion recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka 1,17,60,462. Besides, more than 200 alleged smugglers were arrested and 2,712 cases have been registered with different PS during the year.

KUSHTIA
Seminar on rights of working class

June 17: Speakers at a seminar here stressed the need for ensuring basic rights and privileges for the working class, reports UNB.

The seminar on "Working people and prevailing laws" was organised by "Gano Shahajjo" a voluntary organisation recently at the conference room of district Bar association.

They also said laws should be enacted to bring about changes in the living conditions of the working people.

Presided over by Convener of the District Lawyers Cell Shudhir Kumar Sharma, the seminar was also addressed by some legal practitioners.

CHANDPUR
Public library on verge of collapse

June 17: The century-old public library building here is on the verge of collapse causing threat to both life and property, reports UNB.

The building is in dilapidated condition and cracks have developed on side walls and ceiling, visitors said, reports UNB.

During heavy downpour, rain waters leak through the ceiling and wall making the books and documents of the library wet. Even the staircase is pitiable, the sources said adding that readers are frightened to go upstairs where a large number of books are kept.

Besides, the two-room library can hardly accommodate the readers who are increasing day by day.

Locals have called on the authorities to take immediate steps to shift the venue of the library.

JHENIDAH
4 get 10 years' RI for rape

June 17: Four people have been sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment on charges of raping a housewife, reports UNB.

Court sources said the convicts were also fined Taka 5,000 each and in default would suffer one year's RI more.

District and Sessions Judge N K Chakrabarti delivered the judgement recently.

According to the prosecution story, a group of miscreants raped newly-married housewife Margina (17) of Niamatpur village of Kaliganj upazila on April 29, 1990.

Convicted Tapan, Hossain Siddique, Shakil and Mezbah violated Margina's chastity while she was returning home watching a cinema with her husband Jahangir.

The miscreants gang raped Margina after taking her to a roadside field fastening her husband with a tree.

A case was filed and after investigation, police submitted chargesheet against six people.

The Judge, after examining the records and witnesses, awarded the punishment to four people and acquitted two others.

MAGURA
SSC candidate commits suicide

June 17: An SSC candidate allegedly committed suicide by touching a live electric wire, police said here today, reports UNB.

The victim Chanchal (15), son of an Engineer of Shalika upazila gave away his life on June 9 following a quarrel with his family members, the sources added.

His body was sent to hospital for autopsy. Police investigation is going on.

Brahmaputra, Teesta devour 45 villages

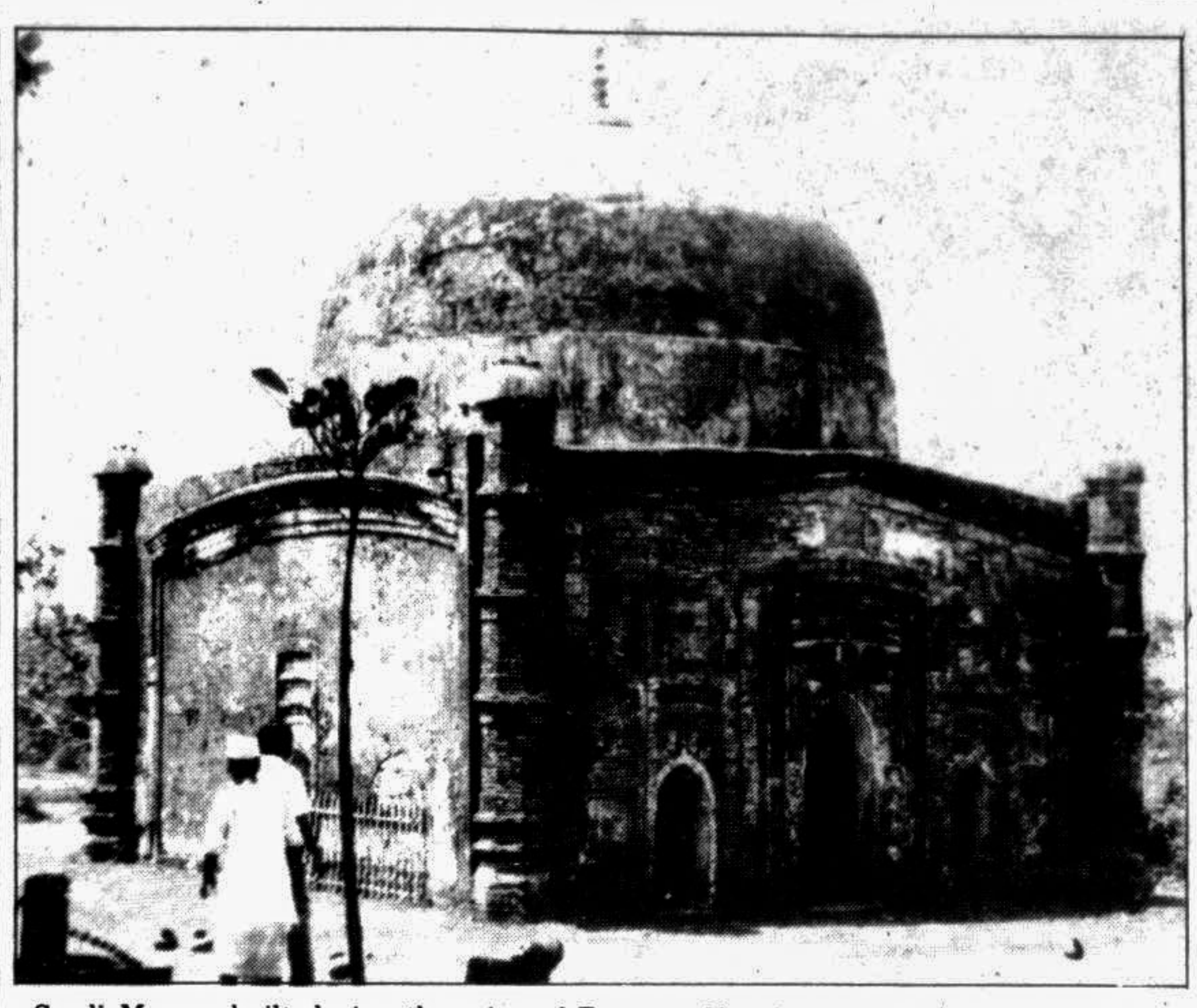
From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 17: Continued erosion of the rivers Brahmaputra and Teesta devoured about 45 villages of four upazilas during the last five years rendering 25,000 families homeless.

Besides, more villages of Sunderganj, three villages of Gaibandha Sadar, five villages of Fulchari and two villages of Shaghata upazilas have been threatened by erosion of the rivers.

Every year the rivers have been losing gradually its usual depth due to deposition of huge silts. As a result, the swelling water during monsoon hits the bank of the river and cause widespread erosion. The erosion devoured vast tract of cultivable lands, locality, markets, and dwelling houses.

Fulchari upazila headquarters is now only 150 yards away from the Brahmaputra river and Sunderganj headquarters is only 200 yards away.



Saadi Mosque built during the reign of Emperor Shahjahan at village Egaroshindur in Kishoreganj needs care for historical interest. —Photo by Iqbal Siddiqui.

Abandoned Rly property being stolen

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 17: Railway properties are being stolen away by the miscreants almost everyday from 12 miles long abandoned railway track between Bharatkhal and Shaghata in Bonarpara-Teestamukh ghat section.

Teestamukh ferry ghat was shifted to Kanaipara Char under Shaghata upazila from

Fulchari after declaring the later unfit for the marine navigation. The Railway authority had to set up new ferry ghat at Kanaipara Char 12 miles off Bharatkhali erecting two additional stations namely Kachua and Shaghata. But after few years the authority closed down the route and again transferred the ghat to Fulchari due to deposition of silts in the ferry channel at Kanaipara.

With the shifting of ferry ghat 12 miles long railway track between Bharatkhal and Shaghata is laying abandoned. Since then railway authority did not withdraw the materials and equipment from the abandoned site for some unknown reason. The materials including rails, sleepers, fish-plates, bolts and other essential equipment are being stolen by the miscreants since the closure of the section. As a result, Railway incurred a heavy loss due to alleged carelessness.

It is now inevitable for the concern authority to look after the matter with immediate effect.

Problems discussed

A seminar on problem of Gaibandha district and its solution was held at local Public Library Hall recently. The programme arranged by Gaibandha Zila Unnayan Committee was presided over

by Shahjahan Khan Abu, Convener of the Committee.

The speakers at the seminar pointed out the drawbacks of Gaibandha district and probable hindrances in the way of development.

Hashish recovered

Narcotic and Liquor Department in separate drives recovered 23 pieces of hashish plants cultivated illegally from the house of one Dula Mia of village Pulbandi under Sadar upazila on June 9. During the raid the contingent further recovered 35 gram dried hashish from the said house. The accused person is still at large but a departmental case was filed against the accused.

Saudi team visits Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, June 17: A Saudi delegation visited the flood affected areas of Maulvi Bazar, on June 12.

Mr Mohammad Saeed Trabzunc, Director of External Aids Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of KSA and Engineer Yousef-Al-Bassam, Acting Director-General, Technical Department, the Saudi Fund for Development were the members of the delegations. State Minister for Social Welfare Tariqul Islam accompanied the delegations.

The Saudi Delegation inspected the Monu Barrage at Matarkapon.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner of Maulvi Bazar arranged a briefing session at Circuit House. Deputy Commissioner explained to the delegation about the flood situation and flood problem of Maulvi Bazar. The Executive Engineer, Water Development Board of Maulvi Bazar also explained about the Monu River Project. All explanation and informations were appeared with statistical data and by chart.

The Saudi delegation expressed its sympathy to the flood affected people of Maulvi Bazar. They said, on their return home, they will submit a report based on experience to the government of Saudi Arabia. They also assured of all possible Saudi help and assistance to the people of Bangladesh.

One killed in Pabna clash

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 17: A young man died following a clash between the supporters of Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club here on June 10.

The clash generated from the final game of BTC Club Cup football held on June 7 at Dhaka Stadium.

Razzak (20) a supporter of Abahani was returning to his residence behind Bhurdi municipality office after the end of the game. Suddenly a quarrel took place with one of his friends and supporters of Mohammedan. At one stage, he was attacked and wounded seriously. He was transferred to RMCH with serious injury and died there after two days.

Belgian scientist visits BAU

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), June 17: A renowned plant bio-chemist Prof Fernand Lambetin of the University of Ghent, Belgium paid a brief visit to Bangladesh Agricultural University on June 13, says a press release.

During the visit, he called on the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof M Asadur Rahman at his office chamber and exchanged views and ideas on the research approaches of BAU.

It may be mentioned here that recently the University of Ghent and the BAU, DU and IPGMR of Bangladesh have jointly embarked upon a collaborative research project.



AGRI-VARSITY: Dr. Farnand Lambetin, a renowned plant bio-chemist from the University of Ghent, Belgium called on the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof. M. Asadur Rahman at the latter's office chamber on June 13. —Star photo

Smuggled goods worth Taka 19 crore seized

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 17: The Jaws of Bangladesh Rifles recovered a huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Taka 18 crore 94 lakhs and 58 thousand from different border areas in Rajshahi district last year.

In all 4086 cases were registered and over 1000 alleged smugglers were arrested during this period.

Bangladesh Rifles men recovered Indian cloths, cattle, stainless steel materials, cosmetics, sugar, motor parts, cycle parts, while those entering into Bangladesh.

The incoming Indian goods seized during the period valued at about Taka 16 crore 9 lakhs and 60 thousand.

The goods seized while being smuggled out of the country included VCR, VCP, shirts, fish, old garments and jute worth about Taka 2 crore 84 lakhs and 97 thousand.

The Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry hailed 1991-92 National Budget as people-oriented and pragmatic.

In a statement here, Chamber President A K M Mustafizur Rahman said the budget had reflected government's aim to establish liberal market economy.

He welcomed the reduction

in corporate tax in the industrial sector and hoped that it would be helpful for industrialisation of the country.

He said that adding more taxes on VCR, VCP's will help reduce smuggling of these items.

Rajshahi Divisional Special Tribunal Judge Mr Abdul Matin has sentenced two persons to four years rigorous imprisonment recently for misappropriation of government money, court sources said.

The convicted persons are: Moksedur Rahman and Motiar Rahman, cashier and accountant respectively of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), Bogra office.

They were also fined Taka 34 thousand 265 in default to suffer four months more rigorous imprisonment.

According to prosecution, Moksedur Rahman and Motiar Rahman jointly misappropriated Taka 34 thousand 265 during their service at BADC's Bogra office. Later, it was detected by the Bogra Anti-Corruption Bureau and a case has been filed with Bogra Thana.

While the case was sent to the Divisional Special Tribunal, the learned judge after examining the records and witnesses recently awarded the punishment.

Meagre medicare in Chandpur hospital

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, June 17: The Modernised Chandpur Sadar Hospital is beset with various problems including shortage of medicine, bed, food, doctors, nurses and other staff.

The hospital has only fifty beds which is quite insufficient to meet the needs of 20 lakh people of the district. Many patients are compelled to stay on floor of the hospital. Medicines supplied to the patients are quite inadequate. Besides, there is no blood bank and separate ward for infectious diseases.

The doctors and nurses are unable to cope with increasing number of patients everyday. The hospital sources said that more doctors, nurses and medical assistants are needed to meet the growing need of the people. Moreover, ward-boys and sweepers are also inadequate. The hospital has only one ambulance which sometime remain out of order.

Jute farming decreases

Jute cultivation is decreasing every year in Chandpur district. Production target will not be achieved this year. Jute cannot be produced in time due to shortage of seeds. On the other hand jute plants in many areas have been attacked by pests. The farmers are unable to use fertilizers due to price hike of the item. Besides, due to instability in jute market the cultivators are not getting fair prices for their produce. Jute production target has been fixed at 60,000 acres of land during the current season. But it is cultivated on only 40,000 acres of land. Every year the jute production is declining in the district in the absence of patronisation by the government.

Four killed by lightning in Pabna

PABNA, June 17: Four students were killed on the spot and two others severely injured when lightning struck them at Hahapur village in Chatmohar upazila on Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Masud (15), Habib (14), Danish (15) and Mohsin (16).

The injured were rushed to the Handial Health Complex where their condition were stated to be critical. They are Shahid (8) and Bilu (12).

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Court sources said the convicts were also fined Taka 5,000 each and in default would suffer one year RI more.

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The miscreants gang raped Margina after taking her to a roadside field fastening her husband with a tree.

A case was filed and after investigation, police submitted chargesheet against six people.

The Judge, after examining the records and witnesses, awarded the punishment to four people and acquitted two others.

2 killed

BSS adds: Two persons were killed in two separate road accidents in the district recently.

Police said one Samad (55) died on the spot in a road accident on Jhenidah-Talsar road. The victim was knocked down by a truck at Kurapara under Sadar upazila.

In another case, an unidentified woman was run over by a bus at Jhenidah-Jessore highway near Borobazar under Kaliganj upazila.

Cases have been registered in these connections.

Royal Bengal Tigers face health hazards

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 17: The number of Royal Bengal Tigers of the Sundarbans is decreasing gradually due to paucity of sweet drinking water in the forest areas.

It is learnt that the Royal Bengal Tigers are compelled to drink saline water from the canals of the forest resulting various diseases specially of tigers.

As such production of Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans is being decreased alarmingly. Now the number of

Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans is 450.

According to forest sources, tigers live in the high land in deep forest beside the river.

On the other hand scarcity of sufficient food, sweet drinking water and unhygienic environment are posing threat to their health.

Meanwhile, the forest authority has taken up a scheme called "The Royal Bengal Tiger Preservation" at a cost of Taka 10 crore and submitted the

scheme to the concerned ministry for approval but no action has yet been taken.

Housing problem

The low paid employees of government, autonomous bodies, private organisations, non-government educational institutions and other low income groups have been suffering much for acute housing problems in the district.

The house rents have been increased due to abnormal rise

13 kg tumour

A 13-kilogram tumour has been removed from the abdomen of a housewife of village Kangahi under Harinakundu upazila recently.

The Sadar hospital source said the patient Shila (30) wife of Rafuddin was admitted to the hospital suspecting that she was pregnant. After thorough examination the doctor found that she had a tumour. Then she was operated upon.

The surgery was conducted by Dr Hasanuzzaman. The patient has been improving.

Keep vigil against malpractices: Huda

CHANDPUR, June 17: State Minister for Information Md Nurul Huda has said that the government was committed to make all policies in restoring the interest of the common man, reports BSS.

Addressing a cross-section of people at Town Hall here on Friday, the State Minister said the government was against any misuse of public money so that national uplift could be ensured by the people-oriented policies.

Organised by Iqbal Smriti Sangsad of Chandpur the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Alam Khan, MP, Jahurul Haq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, President and General Secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists and Matur Rahman, Principal of Chandpur Government College.

The State Minister said the people motivated by nationalist spirit should take lessons from the past autocratic regime so that moral degradation at any level of the society could be checked. He called upon the people of all walks of life to remain vigilant against any malpractices.

He said the BNP believed in democracy and would continue its efforts to flourish democracy along with the people. He said with the need of time, environment and people BNP was preparing a new formula to stabilize democracy. Earlier the State Minister handed over scholarships to 12 meritorious students of Chandpur awarded by the Iqbal Smriti Sangsad.

He said this Smriti Sangsad was formed in 1986 to commemorate late Nur-e-Iqbal, a brilliant student who died of cardiovascular disease in 1985 at the age of 21. Since formation, the Sangsad was associated with multifarious social activities.

Students are striking force

Meanwhile, the State Minister has praised the contribution of students in the language movement against

Hamidur Rahman Education Commission, liberation movement and in recent anti-autocratic movement saying the students community always were the striking force against any repression and injustice.

The State Minister was speaking at the annual conference of JCD of Matlab upazila unit on Friday.

He said the BNP government has raised the age limit to enter into government service from 27 to 30 in order to reduce frustration generated from session-jam in the educational institutes.

The minister said in the new national budget the education sector has got the highest allocation of over Taka 12 hundred crore which is 15.5 per cent of the proposed total revenue expenditure in 1991-92.

He said the highest allocation for the education sector and reduction in prices of educational equipment are among the 10-point charter of demands of All Party Students Unity.

The conference was addressed, among others, by Mr Alam Khan, MP.

Notes from Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, June 17: Four people including two minor girls allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in the district on Thursday by taking poison, reports UNB.

Family sources said Shila (11), daughter of Amanat Ali of village Khalkula in Shaikpura upazila allegedly committed suicide as she could not do well in the mathematics examination. Shila was a student of class four.

A housewife Firoza Khatoon (23), allegedly killed herself at her husband's residence at Shtalidanga of the same upazila. The cause of her death could not be ascertained immediately, but the husband of the victim Abu Zafar remained absconding since the incident.

Tanurant Paul (21), wife of Ananda Kumar Paul of village Bankira of Sadar upazila allegedly gave away her life by taking poison at her husband's house on the same day. The cause of her suicide could not be ascertained.

Another minor girl Mukti (12) daughter of Abdul Mannan of village Nagrat of the same upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides. But the reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

Four UD cases were filed with the police in this connection.

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