

Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

90 posts of pry teachers lying vacant

From Our Correspondent

June 29: A total of 90 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant over the years hampering education of the students in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district. According to an official source out of the vacant posts, 64 are of Headmasters and the rest 26 are assistant teachers. Of the vacant posts, 11 each in Pakundia, Bajitpur and Itna upazilas, 7 each in Kathiadi upazilas, four each in Kishoreganj Sadar and Hossainpur upazilas, two each in Bhatrai and Nikli upazilas, 16 in Austagram upazila, nine in Karimganj upazila, five in Kularchar upazila and one in Mitamari upazila. It deserves mention here that there are 807 government and 181 non-government primary schools in the district where over 2,64,000 students are studying now.

GAIBANDHA

Chadni Bazar Bureau opens

From Our Correspondent

June 29: Gaibandha bureau of daily Chadni Bazar published from Bogra was formally inaugurated on June 18. On this occasion, a discussion meeting was held at the local Mohila College auditorium where A.K.M. Monirul Islam, Additional District Magistrate was present as the chief guest. M Zahedur Rahman, Editor of the daily, Maksudur Rahman Khuku, publisher and Dipanker Ghosh were also present as special guests. The meeting was presided over by Gaibandha Bureau chief Gobinda Lal Das.

NANDAIL

Plan to develop poultry rearing

From Our Correspondent

June 29: Nandail Livestock Department has set a special drive to develop poultry rearing system at Nandail upazila through motivating the rural people. In an interview with this correspondent Nurul Islam, the upazila Livestock Officer said that three persons including two females and a young active man from each ward of 12 unions of the upazila will be selected by the department for training on poultry rearing and vaccination to extend the poultry rearing throughout the upazila.

SINGAIR

Govt aims at people-oriented uplift schemes

June 29: Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan yesterday said present government was committed to implement the people-oriented development programmes for improving the lot of the people, reports BSS.

He was addressing the conference of the Singair Thana Unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal at the Singair Upazila Parishad. The Minister said that the government has already taken up some specific welfare programmes in this connection.

The government is going to introduce a new liberal industrial policy soon for the rapid industrialization of the country and creation of more job opportunity for the youth, he added.

Local Upazila chairman, central and local leaders of the Jubo Dal also addressed the meeting.



Universal primary education programme faces a setback. Photo shows children taking lesson under the open air having no school building or a shed at a remote village in Noakhali.

Primary schools plagued with problems

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 29: Most of the government and non-government primary schools in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district have been facing manifold problems including shortage of teachers and accommodation, lack of necessary appliances like black boards, chalk, dusters etc., paucity of pure drinking water, shortage of funds, furniture and irregular payment of salary.

According to district primary education department, there are 807 government and 181 non-government primary schools in the district.

The total number of the students, in government schools is 2,35,557 while the non-government schools have 28,288 students. As many as 90 posts of primary teachers have been lying vacant for a long time.

Most of the non-government primary schools established under local initiatives

have not yet received government recognitions although these institutions have a good number of students and other requisite facilities. Some of these schools were set up before the liberation war and have been running in deplorable condition. Due to fund constraints payment of salary of the teachers remain irregular over the years. As a result, many teachers have already left their respective institutions in utter disappointment.

On the other hand, the government schools have also been plagued with innumerable problems hampering the very purpose of the Universal Primary Education Programme to a great extent.

Most of the schools have been lacking requisite number of benches. As a result, students are to sit on bricks or mats. In some schools there is not a single chair and the teachers are to sit on benches. The supply of necessary ap-

pliances including blackboards, chalk, duster is too inadequate.

No playground in 90 pc schools

Ninety per cent of the schools do not have playgrounds. Besides, most institutions have no lavatory and urinal except a few schools much to the affliction of the students. Most of these institutions do not have sufficient accommodation and classes of those schools are being held under the open sky but that too becomes impossible during the rainy season.

On the other hand, a good number of schools are running in dilapidated buildings and may collapse at any moment. The roofs of the school buildings soak water even after a slight rainfall which forces the teachers to suspend classes frequently.

Due to shortage of funds the

managements are not in a position to repair the schools. Shortage of teachers is another hindrance to proper education of the students. Besides dearth of trained teachers has aggravated the problem. Some of the teachers who are clinging to their jobs complained that they were not receiving their salaries for months together.

Social leaders expressed the fear that many of the existing schools will face closure shortly, if remedial measures are not taken. Moreover, some of the teachers are not discharging their duties regularly as alleged by the guardians.

The primary schools which had been damaged by floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired in rural areas. The guardians have appealed to the authority concerned to take effective steps so that the long standing problems of the primary schools are redressed.

Farmers apathetic to jute farming

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 29: The production target of jute in Jhenidah district is not likely to be achieved this season due to growers' apathy to jute farming and absence of fair price.

Having been deprived of fair price of jute last year, the growers of Jhenidah district have reduced their acreage of jute cultivation to a great extent. On the other hand prolonged drought in the beginning of sowing jute seeds also forced the farmers to curtail the acreage of jute cultivation in the area.

According to District Agriculture Extension

Victims of terrorism

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 29: Altaf (28), one of the six victims of the recent terrorism at Kaudia village succumbed to his injuries on Thursday night at Jessore General Hospital.

Altaf and five members of his family, his father Ismail Biswas (70) and brothers Razaque (32), Malek (35), Samad (26) and Nawab Ali (22) were injured when a gang of people led by Ali Hossain of the same village attacked them with axe, ramdao, rod, and other weapons on Friday last.

A case was registered with Kotwali police. One Motiur was arrested in this connection.

People of Kaudia and Natuapara villages have submitted memoranda to the State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam, the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super on Wednesday last demanding exemplary punishment to the miscreants.

Department (AED), a total of 10,000 bales of jute is expected to be produced in 41,500 acres of land in six upazilas of Jhenidah district this season. But only 14,965 acres of land could be brought under the programme as against 32,200 acres last year. The upazila-wise break up is as follows: Jhenidah Sadar 520 acres, Kaliganj 2200 acres, Shalakupi 2270 acres, Kotchandpur 990 acres, Mohepur 7900 acres and Harinakundu 1085 acres.

While talking to some farmers of village Meakundu and Kushbaria they told this correspondent that they had cultivated jute only for ropes and jute sticks to meet up their own requirements as they denied fair prices last year. Sometimes they do not get production cost selling their products, some farmers added.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, June 29: To commemorate the death of Mr. Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury MP, a milad mahfil was held recently under the auspices of Madaripur district AL in the Party Office.

Shah Alam (25) of village Shanmandi under Madaripur Sadar Upazila committed suicide by consuming endrine recently.

It is learnt that he was unable to bear horrible Gangrenous pains.

Arrest of newsmen protested

The District Union of Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha protested the arrest of three journalists of daily Akker Kagoj and said it is not merely an act of harassment but also tantamount to an attack on the Press and the journalist community.

In a joint statement, JASAS President, Furkan Ahmed and General Secretary Delwar Dishiari urged the government to withdraw the case against Chairman of Editorial Board of the daily and also its Editor and senior correspondent.

Zia's death anniversary

In observance of the 10th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Madaripur College unit of JCD arranged a discussion meeting at the college ground recently with Md. Jahandar Ali Jahan in the chair.

The speakers said that it was beyond any controversy that late Ziaur Rahman declared the independence from Kalurghat Radio Station and fought dauntlessly during the liberation war.

The annual conference of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Madaripur district unit was held recently with Mr. Jahandar Ali in the chair.

A new committee was also elected with Md. Jahandar Ali and Kazi Enamul Haq as President and Secretary respectively.

C' nawabganj truck labourers union executives

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 29: A 13-member Executive Committee of Chapainawabganj Truck and Motor Labourers Union was elected recently. Fazul Karim Shelly and Abdul Khaleque were elected President and Secretary respectively.

Jiniara Khaton (12) and Asadul (13) of Kallabari village under Shibganj upazila were killed and three others were seriously injured by lightning recently.

One killed in road mishap

Md Kabir, (17), an intermediate student of Chapainawabganj Government College was killed when a minibus knocked him from behind near Chapainawabganj upazila complex recently. The driver fled away immediately after the accident. The police seized the bus.

Student drowns

Rezaul Karim, an intermediate student of Kallota Lane of Municipal area drowned when he was bathing in the Mahananda river recently. His body was recovered from Akandabaria Ghat, two miles away from the spot after two days of the incident.

Terrorist held

Mojnu (30), a notorious terrorist of Ranzhandrapur area under Chapainawabganj Sadar Upazila was apprehended by the police recently.

Hijackers active in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 29: Hijackers have become active on roads in Pabna district. In a recent incident Swapan Kumar Kar marker and two other unknown persons were hijacked from Radhanagar area. The hijackers took away Taka 35,000 in cash and gold ornaments worth about Taka 5000 on gun point.

Indian sarces worth about Taka 20,000 were seized by Bangladesh Rifles and Dasuria customs with the help of Ishwardi thana police recently from a Kushtia-Pabna service bus.

Dacoits loot Tk 2.80 lakh in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, June 29: Dacoits looted about Taka 2.80 lakh in cash from a small trader in Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of 6-8 dacoits equipped with lethal weapons broke into the house of Matal Mia, a leather-trader of Sultanshi village recently and took away the amount.

The robbers attacked the trader and his family members when they tried to resist.

Jamuna swallows 3 Pabna villages

PABNA, June 29: Three villages of Bera upazila went down the river Jamuna during the last 24 hours ending 6 am today, official sources said, reports UNB.

The villages Rakhsha, Singhashan and Ganapaddiya were lost into the river as erosion took a serious turn with the recession of water in the Jamuna.

About 500 people were rendered homeless as the turbulent river ate up some portions of 11 other villages during the period.

The villages are: Madhupur, Nakalia, Roghunathpur, Pura Varena, Latipur, Verakhula, Pechakhula, Nagarbari, Dhalarchar, Taratia and Kalayampur.

72 FWP schemes completed

PATUAKHALI, June 29: Seventy-two projects under Food for Work Programme (FWP) have been completed in six upazilas of Patuakhali district during the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned about 3,300 metric tons of wheat worth about Taka two crore for the implementation of the projects.

The projects were construction and re-construction of roads, embankments, educational institutions, clearing of bushes and jungles, excavation or re-excavation of canals and development of playgrounds.

Some women smugglers were caught with sarces wrapped over their bodies.

Water level of the Padma at Harding Bridge is rising with every passing day creating panic among the nearby people.

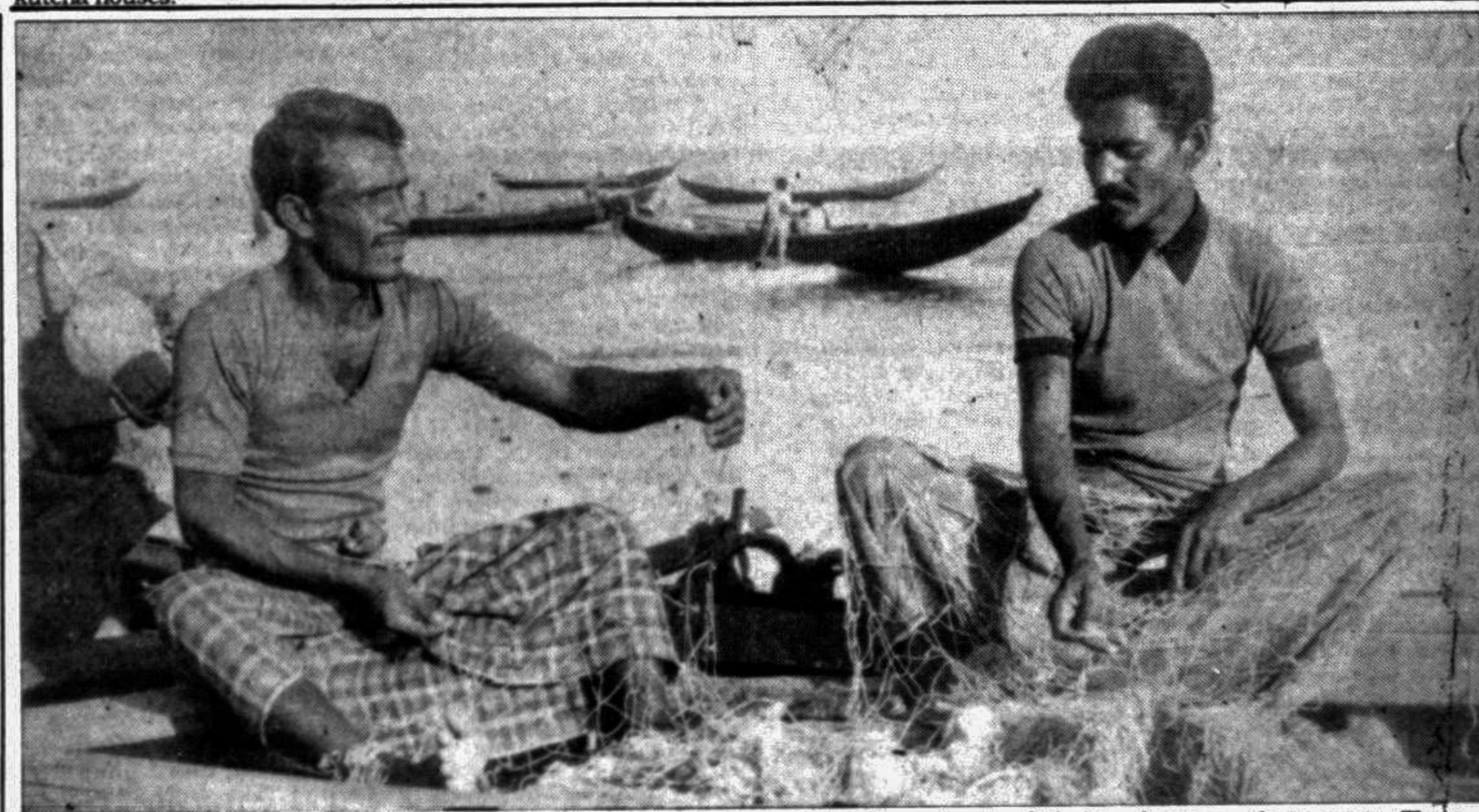
On the other hand incessant rainfall has submerged standing crops on about 20,000 acres of land in four upazilas of the district during the last one week. The affected upazilas are Pabna Sadar, Bera, Santhia and Chatmohor. Besides, low-lying areas were inundated damaging numerous kutcha houses.

Meanwhile, a section of dishonest businessmen is creating artificial scarcity of essentials to earn maximum benefit. As a result, prices of essentials are showing upward trend.

Pipegun recovered

Shujanagar thana police recovered a pipe gun with two rounds of ammunition and arrested Makbul Hossain of village Hudarpara under Tatiban union of Shujanagar upazila recently.

A case was filed with Shujanagar thana in this connection.



They have lost everything in the recent cyclone and tidal surge. But the calamity failed to dampen their spirit. These fishermen are knitting nets to start life anew in Cox's Bazar.

50,000 Jamalpur fishermen in distress

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 29: About 50,000 fishermen in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district are not in a position to carry on their ancestral occupation due to non-availability of fishing appliances and necessary capital.

The fish production in the district is on the decline since last one year following price hike of fishing appliances including nets and boats. The situation has aggravated due to past floods that have completely shattered the economic condition of the fishermen. The flood ravaged fishermen were not properly rehabilitated to run their trade afresh, some fishermen alleged.

A fishing boat along with a net in local market is being sold at Taka 1.5 lakh which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the fishermen.

The abnormal prices of fishing net, boat and other appliances persisting in the district have crippled the professional

fishermen. They are also being deprived of government allocation extended to Fishermen Co-operative Societies due to nepotism of local influential quarters.

Previous beels and hoars were the main source of fish production but it is declining very fast because of massive siltation, unplanned irrigation and reckless fishing by the non-professionals considerably affecting the production in the beels and hoars.

Meanwhile, a large number of fishermen has left their profession and has taken other jobs. It may be mentioned here that genuine fishermen previously used to get hoars beels and jalmahals on lease but now-a-days a section of fake fishermen in collusion with the vested quarters are taking lease of water bodies.

Despite government provision, the local fishermen are not being supplied with yarn at a fair price due to alleged cor-

ruption in the fishermen co-operative societies.

On the other hand, bank loan facilities are not adequate to help boost pisciculture in the district.

Reports from Jamalpur, Islampur and Melandah upazilas say that fishermen were totally frustrated due to fund constraints and lack of government patronisation. Non-professional fishermen make monopoly business in connivance with the local influential persons while the genuine fishermen are being deprived of minimum facilities.

Erosion continues

Jamuna and Brahmaputra erosion has devoured 1500 houses rendering a large number of people homeless in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district recently.

The affected upazilas are Bakshiganj, Dewanganj, Madarganj, Islampur,

Melandah, Sarishabari and Sadar upazilas. The victims took shelter at Jamalpur, Dewanganj and Sarishabari railway stations and on flood control embankments.

The district administration has reportedly undertaken measures to rehabilitate the homeless people.

The Water Development Board sources said that, the erosion has now made repair work of the flood control embankment from Bahadurabad ghat to Jagannathganj ghat, uncertain. The erosion may even affect the embankment at Nowapara, the source added.

During the last floods the embankment was badly damaged at several points which was supposed to be repaired before monsoon, but it was delayed due to fund constraints.

Erosion is continuing unabated since last 20 years and 200 square miles area was washed away and over 50,000 people rendered homeless.