

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

HBFC office needed

From Our Correspondent

June 11: In absence of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) office at Madaripur people of the district are unable to construct new buildings to overcome accommodation problem.

Moreover, the loan disbursement system has become so complex that it takes a long time to avail loan facilities from any bank. After the upgradation of Madaripur into a district its population has been increased considerably but houses were not constructed proportionately.

C' NAWABGANJ

18 family welfare centres will be constructed

June 11: A scheme to construct 18 family welfare centres has been taken up for execution in 11 districts of Rajshahi division, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the centres will be built in Chapainabganj, Sirajganj, Pabna, Naogaon, Gaibandha, Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Magura, Nilphamari and Dinajpur districts at a cost of Tk three crore.

Funded jointly by the World Bank and the Bangladesh Government, the centres equipped with modern facilities will help gear up family planning and child care activities in the rural areas.

Work on the scheme is going on in full swing and is expected to be completed in the next three months.

RANGPUR

Bus falls into ditch: 17 hurt

June 11: At least 17 passengers were injured, two of them seriously, when a mini bus fell into a roadside ditch after hitting a speeding train at Tobour village in Ullupur upazila on Monday, police said, reports UNB.

Two seriously injured Abdul Rashid (25) and Mazurul Islam (40) were rushed to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital while the rest were released after first aid.

Witnesses said the mishap occurred when the mini bus (Rangpur Ba-2722) trying to cross the railway track hit the Parbotipur bound local train. The bus then skidded into a wayside ditch.

Police arrested the driver of the mini bus identified as Bachhu Mia.

A case was filed with local police in this connection.

RANGAMATI

Rubber plantation project suffers colossal loss

June 11: Khagrachari rubber plantation project suffered a colossal loss in the tornado which battered the country's coastal areas on April 29, reports UNB.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Authority has estimated the loss at Taka 10 crore.

Funded jointly by Asian Development Bank and the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, the project covered more than 400 acres of land in Perchari, Bhailonchara, Ahutia, Dighena and Baulkhal areas in Khagrachari hill district, sources said.

At least two lakh rubber plants on about 3000 acres were damaged and scores of dwellings of rubber farmers razed to the ground by the cyclone, the sources said.

Thousands of rubber saplings, procured from Malaysia for plantation in the project area, were also destroyed by the hurricane.

The rubber processing factory, now being constructed at a cost of Taka 0.75 crore on four acres of land at Khagrachari, is threatened by erosion of Chengri river.

Officials feared that if steps are not immediately taken to check erosion, the river will soon engulf the factory.

GHORASAL

20 injured in road mishap

June 11: At least 20 people were injured in an accident near Palash upazila on Charsindur-Panchdona road, police said here today, reports UNB.

Eight seriously injured were admitted to local health complex, and others were released after first aid. Witnesses said, the incident occurred recently

when a Narsingdi bound mini bus (Dhaka Cha-3134) from Narsinghar Char fell into a roadside jute field.

The driver lost control of the steering while trying to overtake a truck. Police seized the mini bus but the driver fled.

A case was instituted with the local police.

JHENIDAH

12 lakh maunds sugarcane drying up

June 11: About twelve lakh maunds of sugarcane have been standing and drying up on the fields at Darsana unwanted by the mills leaving the cane growers to financial uncertainty, reports UNB.

The mill managers said cane production exceeded all the previous records and the demand for local sugar was diminished by abundant supply of smuggled Indian sugar.

However, the Darsana Mill sources said they arranged with the Mobarakgonj Sugar Mills of Jhenidah, which ended its crushing on 31st May, to crush about 2.5 lakh maunds of cane which remain standing in the fields of Darsana Mill zone area.

Talking to UNB, some farmers in the area said that about 50 per cent sugarcane in the fields have already dried up as the mills would not lift those and as they had been barred by law from producing "gur".

"We are not getting fair price for sugarcane nor payment is made regularly for canes lifted by the mill authorities," they alleged.

A mill manager said that 1400 metric tons of sugar worth about Taka 35 crores remained unsold in the mills godown as Indian sugar was available at low prices in the border markets of Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Jessore and Sathkira. As a result, mills owed crores of Taka to the cane growers, he said.

RAJSHAHI

Power failure frequent

June 11: Life and living in the metropolitan area and suburbs have been affected badly by frequent power failure, reports UNB.

The municipal area often plunges into darkness after sundown giving rise to anti-social elements, residents alleged.

They said power disruptions and voltage fluctuation had rendered many household electric and electronic gadgets inoperative.

In the suburbs, mills and factories have to incur considerable financial losses owing to hampered production caused by erratic power supply.

Soccer league

Coca Cola First Division Football League began at Rajshahi Stadium Monday amid much enthusiasm.

Elite Club beat Tiger Sporting by a solitary goal in the opening match. Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the competition.

Twelve teams are taking part in the league.

MYMENSINGH

BAU admission test postponed

June 11: The written test for admission into first year B.Sc classes of 1990-91 session under six faculties of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) here has been postponed due to what authorities said "unavoidable reasons," reports UNB.

The test was earlier scheduled on June 19.

The new date and time for the admission test will be announced in due course, a BAU press release said.

NARAIL

7 JCD activists injured in clash

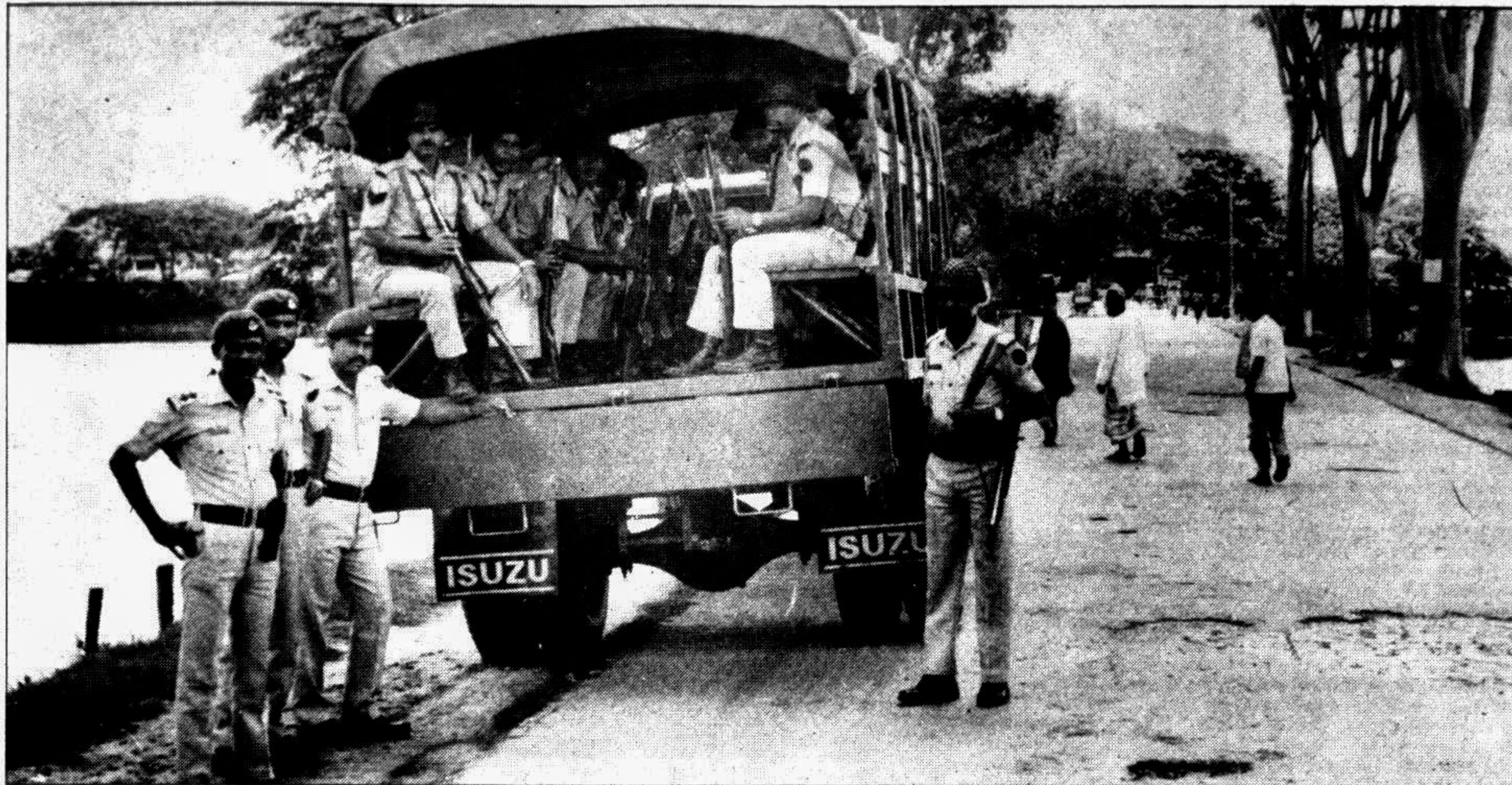
June 11: Seven activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Narail Victoria College were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash with workers of Chhatra League (A-A) at the college campus on Monday, reports UNB.

Injured Haidar Rahman (24), Jahangir Alam (23), Abdul Mannan (22), Sayed Chowdhury (24) and Tariqul Islam were rushed to the Sadar hospital. Two were released after first aid.

Eye witnesses said the student groups brought out processions simultaneously in the campus and at one stage they came face to face and clashed.

Both the groups allegedly used lethal weapons like Chinese axes and ram dao during the clash.

Police were deployed in and around the college campus to prevent further outbreak of skirmishes.



Production in Adamjee Jute Mills resumed amid tight security on Monday. The mill was closed sine die on Saturday last following clashes between rival groups of workers that left at least four people dead. Photo shows BDR personnel patrolling the mill area.

Massive rehabilitation plan in southern districts

BARISAL, June 11: The government has taken up a massive programme for the rehabilitation of the cyclone-hit people of six southern districts through the Regional Relief Co-ordinator of Barisal region, reports BSS.

The districts to be covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna.

A co-ordinator office source said that the government had sanctioned 11,700 bundles of CI sheets for the reconstruction of the houses damaged by the recent cyclone and tornado in these districts.

Of the total, 6,000 bundles were sanctioned for Bhola district, 1,800 bundles for Patuakhali, 1,100 bundles for Barguna, 1,800 bundles for Barisal, 500 bundles each for Jhalakati and Pirojpur districts, the source said.

Besides, the government had also sanctioned Taka 60 lakh for construction of the houses of destitute families in

the region.

Of the total Taka 6.50 lakh will be spent for the destitute families in Barisal district, Taka 30 lakh in Bhola, Taka 12 lakh in Patuakhali, Taka 6.50 lakh in Barguna, Taka 3 lakh in Jhalakati and Taka 2 lakh in Pirojpur districts, the source added.

The construction of houses will start soon, the source said.

Reconstruction work of the embankment has been slow because of interruption by heavy monsoon rains and tidal surge.

Reconstruction of the damaged embankment, is vital for rehabilitation of agriculture, shrimp projects and salt beds in the area as well as saving scores of villages from frequent tidal surges.

Aus crops damage

The Aus crops were totally damaged by saline water and the prospect for Aman will remain bleak unless damaged embankments are recon-

structed on an emergency basis, officials said.

The Water Development Board (WDB) which has undertaken reconstruction of the damaged embankments suffered a loss of Taka 12 crore 80 lakh in buildings, sluice gates embankment and protective walls.

The WDB under its emergency reconstruction work is constructing a 20 km dwarf embankment as a protective measure against tidal surge in Baharchara, Premasia, Kadamarasul, Gondamar, Khankanabad and Khakali unions of the upazila.

WDB has received 1700 tonnes of wheat for reconstruction of embankment of which 64 tonnes have so far been spent.

Banskhali upazila, one of the worst affected areas of the district, had a death toll of 3200 besides widespread damage to properties and livestock.

According to official estimates, educational sector in Banskhali suffered a loss of about Taka five crore.

Of the total 160 educational institutions of the upazila, 50 were completely damaged and 97 partially.

Twelve teachers were affected by the cyclone and tidal surge.

As the damaged and affected educational institutions are yet to be reconstructed, classes cannot be held.

This correspondent while visiting a number of schools in the western and eastern Banskhali came to know that only 10 per cent students 25 per cent teachers are attending the classes.

A number of institutions are still occupied by the affected people and while relief activities are going on in others. Banskhali Pilot High School, Banskhali Girls School and its adjoining primary schools are crowded by relief seekers daily.

Hepatitis epidemic in N. dists

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 11: Hepatitis disease has broken out in an epidemic form in many northern districts of the country. The districts are Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Natore, Rajshahi, Naogaon and Joypurhat.

On an average 20 to 25 Hepatitis patients are being checked at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and seven to eight patients at Pabna, Natore, Nawabganj and Bogra hospitals regularly. But very few patients are getting chance of admission in the hospital due to shortage of beds in these hospitals.

According to the doctors, although the disease looks like jaundice but it is of a serious type caused by virus infecting liver cells. On the other hand, people are compelled to take treatment from quacks due to poverty and scarcity of medicines in these hospitals.

Papaya production

Papaya production scheme has started at Pabna under the supervision of Agriculture Extension Department.

Problems grip Chuadanga Govt Boys High School

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 11: Chuadanga Government VJ Boys High School is plagued with various problems causing untold sufferings to the students and teachers.

Shortages of teaching staff, furniture, increasing number of students, are the main cause of their sufferings. It is learnt that in place of 26 teachers only 17 teachers have been appointed during the last 10 years. Besides, there is no religious teacher neither for Muslims nor for Hindu students.

At present there are 875 students in the school. The bathrooms and toilets of the school may collapse at any time due to the leakage of tin made water tank, as there is no boundary wall in the west

side of the school. The privacy of the school as well as the residence of the headmaster is being hampered.

The flaring of the microphones near the school and rough sounds from the nearby miniature workshop during the school hours have been causing untold inconveniences to both the teachers and students of the school.

The Headmaster of the school while exchanging views with the local elite cited the above problems and sought co-operation from all concerned to solve the problems at an earliest.

Construction work of Chuadanga Press Club is going on in full swing at its new site at Courtpara area of the town.

The construction work of the club was formally inaugu-

rated on May 17 by Mrs Bashira Mannan, a Professor of the University of Dhaka in presence of a huge gathering as the chief guest.

It is learnt that land covering an area of about three kathas was donated by Hafizur Rahman Malik.

A function was arranged in the premises of the new site of the Press Club with Quamrul Arefin, President of the Club in the chair. Tajul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga and Mokbulur Rahman, founder President of Chuadanga Press Club attended it as special guests.

Mrs Mannan also declared a donation of Taka 10,000 to the club. Besides, Atiqur Rahman Malik one of the Directors of Minhaj Group of Industries also declared a donation of Taka 10,000. Mrs Mannan stressed the need for objective and sound journalism.

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Dacoits loot Tk 89.50 lakh from bank

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, June 11: A Bank dacoity was committed at Bangladesh Krishi Bank Seed Store Bazar branch in Bhaluka upazila recently.

It is learnt that the miscreants entered the bank by breaking open the left doors of the office and cut down the iron gate of the strong room and looted Taka 89,50,405.

The miscreants ransacked other almirahs breaking their locks. The officials of the bank were authorised to keep only Taka 22,00,000 in the strong room, exceeding which the amount was to be sent forth to the controlling office. But the Manager in-charge kept the amount violating the rules of the bank.

The guard was arrested and police investigation is in progress.

The District Anti Corruption department has started an enquiry into the misappropriation of allocated rice of a project at Nandail upazila recently.

It is learnt that 250 maunds

of rice were allotted against the earth-filling project of Banati-Kaliganj road under Rajgati union in 1985-86 financial year. But the project members allegedly defalcated the rice.

Govt employee murdered

A 50-year-old government employee was assassinated at Nandail upazila recently.

It is learnt that Mr. Nurul Amin of village Gopinathpur under Betagor union of Nandail upazila was slaughtered by some miscreants at Eidgah maidan while he was returning home from Modhupur Bazar.

Nurul Amin was the employee of Modan upazila Health complex under Netrakona district.

The Cause of his murder was not known.

A case has been registered with Nandail police. No body was arrested so far in this connection.

Pump house fails to achieve goal

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, June 11: Pump house and sluice gate at Kashempur at the mouth of Karadair, a canal linking river Kushiara with haor Kowadighi constructed in 1981 by the Water Development Board (WDB), Maulvi Bazar, at a cost of Taka 11 crore have failed to achieve its goal.

The main objective of this Pump house was to drain out surplus and stagnant waters of haor Kowadighi during the monsoon and save about 25 thousand acres of agricultural land from inundation by the flood and rain water coming from beel through the canals.

But now it is observed that, people living outside the Monu project embankment, are cutting the embankment at several places and project area is inundated by flood water. The WDB here spending Taka one crore annually as power bill to operate the Kashempur Pump house without adequate benefit to the people. In this situation

the Pump house remains inoperative due to high level of water.

A WDB source said, the situation arising out of the cutting of Monu project embankment has rendered the Pump house inoperative. The source added that the map-made flood caused an extensive damage to the project embankment and Kashempur Pump house, which may require over Taka one crore to repair.

But the flood affected people, who were cutting the embankment every flood season told the Daily Star that to save their lives and properties they are cutting the project embankment.

They told this correspondent that entire Monu project planning was wrong thus causing untold sufferings to the people of both sides of Monu project areas.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, June 11: Madaripur Islamic Prokalpa, a non-government venture was inaugurated recently by D.C. of Madaripur.

The non-government venture for bringing up the orphans and giving them job-oriented education has been started with ten orphans initially and a house of Islamic Academy.

Among others the inaugural function was addressed by the D.C. Madaripur, Dr. Fariduddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Prokalpa and Maulana Nur Mohammad Azadi the co-ordinator of the Prokalpa. The audience in the function showed interest in this noble venture and pledged to extend necessary co-operation.

Beggars on rise

Beggars are on the rise in the district town. According to the sources, there has been a continuous influx of beggars into the town during the last few months. Poor people due to acute food crisis and unemployment are pouring into the town in quest of job to maintain their livelihood.

Scarcity of job opportunities has resorted them to begging.

Rabindra Jayanti

A discussion meeting in observance of Rabindra Jayanti was held here recently. Presided over by Salim Farazi the meeting was addressed by Mehedi Hassan and Nuruzzaman Ripon. Speakers at the meeting said that Tagore's message gave us inspiration in many critical junctures and political crisis in the past and provided us with courage to overcome them.

Mosquito menace

Mosquito menace has increased alarmingly in Madaripur and its adjoining areas recently.

People have become impatient due to mosquito bites which become more horrible after sundown.

The mosquito breeding is multiplying day by day. Studies of students are being seriously hampered as their maximum time is being wasted in patting and scratching their bodies.

Widespread of malaria has been reported in the town.

Hashish plants seized

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 11: Narcotic and Liquor Department, Kurigram range in a drive seized hashish plants from Sadullapur Upazila on May 28.

On getting a secret information, Narcotic and Liquor Control Department in collaboration with local Thana police launched a drive in Sadullapur Upazila. They raided village Bujrak Rapsolpur and recovered 70 pieces of large hashish plants and 500 gram of finished hashish from the home-stead of Ismail and Momen Mandol. In another drive the contingent recovered further pieces of large size hashish stems together with 250 gram finished goods from the house of Shahabuddin of village Barajamalpur. The price of hashish was estimated at about Taka 45,000.

Chandpur roads in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, June 11: Almost all roads under Roads and Highways Department of Chandpur district are in a deplorable condition for a long time.

These roads with the culverts and bridges were constructed either during the British rule or Pakistan period. Due to lack of proper development and maintenance these roads have become worn out. Innumerable pot holes and deep breaches have developed on these roads causing great inconvenience to the vehicular traffic and the people. The roads are Chandpur-Cornilla road, Chandpur-Faridganj road, Chandpur-Matlab road and Chandpur-Katchua road.

Pests damage Aus crops

From Our Correspondent

NANDAIL, June 11: Standing Aus crops on thousands of acres of land have been seriously affected by pests attack threatening the cultivation in the upazila.

It is learnt that swarms of black insects known as 'Pamri Poka' are eating up the green leaves of tender paddy, leaving them dry and grey. The attacked paddy plants are totally incapable of bearing new leaves. As a result the entire farming is seriously hampered causing colossal loss to the cultivators.

Use of pesticide is also impossible as it is sold at an exorbitant price which is beyond purchasing capacity of the poor cultivators.