

District roundup

SATKHIRA 20 hurt in road mishap

June 12: At least 20 people were injured in two separate road accidents in the district on recently, reports UNB.

Police said a Satkhira-bound bus from Kalganj turned turtle while giving side to a rickshaw van at Kulia bridge injuring 18 passengers.

In another accident, two cycle riders were seriously injured when a speeding truck knocked them from behind at Satpur bridge. The injured were identified as Khalil and Raisul.

Among the injured five were admitted to Sadar hospital.

Two separate cases were filed with local police.

LALMONIRHAT Valuables worth Tk 30,000 looted

June 12: Armed miscreants allegedly looted valuables worth about Tk 30,000 from the local Zilla Parishad Bhaban last week, reports UNB.

A group of miscreants armed with lethal weapons entered the building by breaking the lock and decamped with six fans and an electric motor.

A case was filed with Aditmari police in this connection.

Another report says the Inspector General of Registration (IGR) Afzal Hossain Ahmed recently visited the Sub-Registry offices in the district.

In this connection, a meeting was held at Aditmari Sub-Registry office last week and was presided over by the local MP Mujibur Rahman.

BARISAL Setting up of stripe-forest planned

June 12: The government has taken up a programme to set up stripe-forest along with 480-kilometre of roads and embankments in 38 thanas of five southern districts during the current season, reports UNB.

According to officials, about Tk 70 lakh has already been sanctioned for afforestation in Barisal, Jhalokathi, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Khulna districts under Barisal forest division.

The programme will cover 160 km of roads under Roads & Highway Department, 65 km of embankments and 260 km of connecting roads in the districts.

The forest department will also distribute about 1000 saplings of coconut and about 40,000 of Raintree and Mehogni trees among the poor and marginal farmers of the districts during the period.

MAGURA Kidnapped girl rescued

June 12: Police rescued a kidnapped girl from Shimakhali village in Shalikhah thana on recently, reports UNB.

Shukhla Rani (14), daughter of Nuni Gopal of village Laxmipur in Sadar thana, was kidnapped by a group of armed youths from her house on June 4.

Acting on secret information, police raided the house of Karim Mia at Shimakhali and rescued the ill-fated girl.

Shukhla was produced before the court. But none was arrested in this connection.

KISHOREGANJ Adulterated edible oil on sale

June 12: Adulterated edible oil is reportedly being sold in open market in the town and its adjoining areas creating concern among the consumers, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that some dishonest whole sellers were selling the oil, including ghee, coconut oil and Soyabean, mixing with crude palm oil, which is used for soap manufacturing, to the consumers in cheaper rate.

Being attracted with the cheaper rate, poor consumers are buying these items without any hesitation and fall victim of health hazards.

Local physicians attributed the outbreak of various gastrointestinal diseases to the consumption of adulterated oils.

Some organised groups are learnt to be involved in this malpractice and are supplying adulterated items including the oil to wholesale dealers.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to check the malpractice.

MAJDEE COURT Prize-giving ceremony held

June 12: The annual prize giving ceremony of Noakhali Zilla Krira Lekhak Samity was held at the BRDB training centre recently, reports UNB.

Presided over by Abul Hashem, president of the unit, the function was attended by the State Minister for youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka as the chief guest while Md Shahjahan MP, Salahuddin Kamran MP and Kazi Alam Babu, Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Krira Lekhak Samity were present as the special guests.

The recipient of the prize were Kazi Mahfuzul Haq (Posthumous, Organiser), Md Shafiqulha, (Athlete), Rezaul Karim Bahadur (Coach), Abdul Karim Bachchu (Football Referee), Didarul Alam (Volleyball) and Pervin Akher (Athlete).

Later, the state minister distributed crests among the recipients.

PABNA Lighting kills 3 of a family

June 12: Tragedy descended on a family at Narkelpara village in Chatmohar thana as three of its members were recently killed by lightning, reports UNB.

Police said Hatem Ali Mollah (27), Amzad Mollah (20) and Bical Mollah (16) — the three brothers died on the spot as thunderbolt struck them when they were working at a field near their home.

NARSINGDI Re-excavation of canals, rivers completed

June 12: Re-excavation of 30 kilometres of rivers and canals by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) was completed recently in the district, reports BSS.

According to an official source, about 1,400 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for implementation of the scheme.

Re-excavation was done on Balder canal and Paharia and Brahmaputra rivers.

BARGUNA Female labourers on rise

June 12: Female labourers are on increase in the district due to growing economic crisis, reports UNB.

According to sources, about 20,000 female labourers are working in 11 thanas of the district.

These labourers are used to earn their livelihood by husking paddy and working in brick fields and road development works under food for work programmes.

But with completion of the projects and introduction of rice mills, many of them have become jobless and are passing their days with great hardship.

The next programme of food for work has yet to be started in the district while opportunities in agriculture has also decreased to a great extent following natural calamities including tidal bore and cyclonic storm.

Besides these, pressures for dowry force a large number of young unmarried girls preferring to become day labourers.

NAOGAON Seven get five-year RI each

June 12: Seven people were sentenced five years rigorous imprisonment for unleashing terrorist activities in an educational institution, reports UNB.

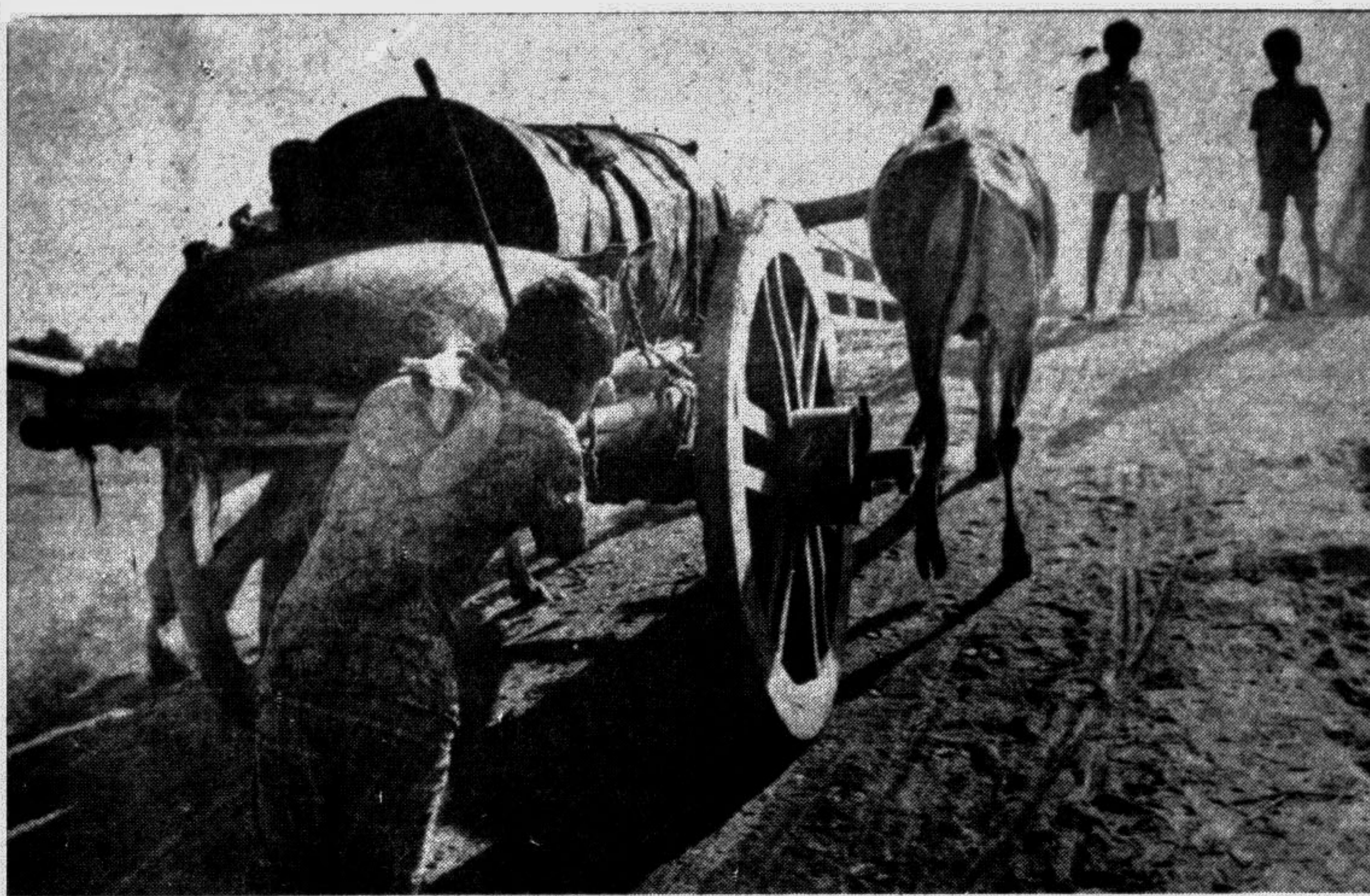
The District Anti-Terrorism Tribunal Court delivered the judgement here recently after examining the witnesses and evidences.

The accused Salim, Lal Mohammad, Emadur, Enamul Haque, Nahid Islam, Jahangir Hossain and Shamsur Rahman were also fined Tk one thousand each in default of which they have to suffer six months more imprisonment.

The court, however, acquitted four others from the charges as they found not guilty.

The case in brief is that the accused equipped with lethal weapons entered the M Mollah Azad Memorial College at Atrai and attacked the students. At least two students were injured and the office of the principal was ransacked in the raid.

Police investigated the incident following a case filed by the principal of the college.



It is too heavy for bullocks to pull. So the owner on way to market pushing the cart.

—Star photo

Severe drought persists Underground water-level falls alarmingly in northern dists

SIRAJGANJ, June 12: Underground water level in northern districts including Sirajganj and Pabna has fallen and causing in conveniences in lifting water for drinking and irrigation purpose.

Severe drought situation have been persisting in the northern region of the country. Due to rainfall of lately, the situation improved slightly but overall drought situation have not changed.

It is gathered that underground water level in the northern districts have fallen alarmingly. Water cannot be lifted even from 100-feet beneath the surface by hand tubewells, shallow and deep tubewells.

The farmers of Tarash area told this correspondent that in 1990 water level fell to the highest of 80 feet, in 1991 & 1992 it fell to 90 feet and in the current dry season, water could not be lifted from 100 feet beneath the surface.

Short flow of river water and short of rainfall are the causes of such abnormal fall of underground water level.

Besides the northern region of the country is being led to desertification for ecological imbalance mainly for deforestation. A source of local Agricultural Extension Department (AED) have ap-

prehended further deterioration of the situation in the coming years.

Due to shortfall of the water level, irrigation works in the IRR fields have been affected much. Consequently, standing IRR plants have dried up and production is threatened in vast tracts of cultivated land.

Following bumper paddy production of last harvesting season, the commoners are enjoying stable market price of paddy. But if irrigation network fails, production of the current season will affect the market in near future.

To solve the problems of lifting ground water, the farmers are installing shallow and deep tubewells after boring the surface. A planned and technically developed step is necessary to mitigate the problem, explained knowledgeable sources.

Another copy adds: Industrialisation in private sector have increased in 16 northern districts.

During last 14 months ended in February '93 a total of 72 new industrial establishments have been set up in the area. The newly established industries include mechanised husking mills and textile mills.

The government has earned revenue collection amounting to taka 8,715.00 from the new mills.

Besides, licenses of only 354 other industries in 16 northern districts out of 3,379 have been renewed. The rest of 3,325 factory owners have not renewed their licenses as yet causing loss of government revenue.

While contacted, a source of license authority told this correspondent that an enquiry team have been set up to investigate the actual condition of the defaulting industries.

Another report adds: Massive use of chemical fertilizers in the croplands of 16 northern districts is gradually decreasing fertility of soil.

It was learnt that TSP, urea, zinc sulfate, MP and other chemical fertilizers are widely used in the croplands of 16 northern districts.

At present the farmers in this region cultivate two to three crops every year. Like the past, green fertilizers are not used in any land. In the past, the farmers used 'mas' pulses and 'dhumcha' plants as green fertilizer. But due to market rate 'mas' and 'khesari' pulses, these are used as food and 'dhumcha' is used as fuel.

To get extra production, chemical fertilizers are used widely. Cow-dung which was earlier used as manure is now sold in the market after converting it to 'ghute'.

2500 children engaged in different jobs Alarming rise in child labourers

NATORE, June 12: Child labourers are increasing alarmingly due to economic hardship of the poor families in vast areas of the district.

According to an unofficial survey conducted by social welfare activists about 20 thousand and 5 hundred child labourers aged six to 12 years are engaged in different add jobs for earning their livelihood at Lalpur, Shingra, Bagatipara, Gurudaspur, Baratgram and Natore Sadar thanas.

Recurrent cyclone, floods, draught and other natural calamities have made the marginal and landless farmers destitute. The children of these poor families are compelled to make their livelihood in their tender age instead of going to school.

It is also learnt from the survey report that of the total,

From Our Correspondent
about 13 thousand are female child labourers.

Finding no other alternatives the affected poor parents go to unknown destinations along with their kids in search of food and shelter.

These child labourers work in hotels and restaurants, motor garages, workshops and houses as maid servants. Some even are found plying rickshaw, selling bidi and newspapers.

Taking advantage of their poor condition, some unscrupulous businessmen and smugglers engage them in unlawful activities.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) no child below the age of 15 years is allowed to be engaged in any hard work. But in Bangladesh child labourers have to work for more than 12 hours at a nominal salary.

Meanwhile, the number of

female workers is increasing rapidly at six thanas of the district.

At present there are about 25 thousand female labourers in the district, another survey report said. About 18 thousand of these female workers are unmarried. Heavy demand for dowry which their parents are unable to meet is the main reason for the situation.

These female workers used to earn their livelihood by husking paddy and working in the brickfields. But now the opportunities for the work is completely absent in the rural areas due to establishment of rice mills in almost every villages.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take proper steps to rehabilitate the child labourers and female workers so that they can lead a decent life.

Notes from Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 12: Three youngmen were killed by lightning in a village under Ajmiriganj thana under Habiganj district recently. Another youngman was also injured at the same time.

According to the report, in the afternoon on the day of incident, the victims went to a haor to bring their cows. Back to the house suddenly heavy rain started pouring alongwith gusty winds. They were standing at the bank of a pond belonging to one Amjad Ullah.

At a stage, Abdul Mobin 18, son of Awlad Hossain, Subon Miah 17, son of Anwar of village Pashchimbag under Shibpasha union and another minor boy of village Bangpasha were killed on the spot as they were struck by a sudden lightning. Sabu Miah 16, son of Sohrabullah of village Pashchimbag under Shitpasha union who was also with them was seriously injured and later was taken to the Akmiriganj thana health complex.

Rickshawpuller electrocuted
A rickshawpuller was electrocuted at a place near Goalabazar under Balaganj thana of Sylhet district recently.

According to the reports, the victim Abdul Jalil, 30, of village Isabur was electrocuted when he came in touch with a distorted wire of electricity line which passes through the road.

It is alleged that, there has been serious allegations against the workers and employees of the PDB in the area that, they had taken no immediate and necessary action even after receiving information of such distortion of electricity wires at places due to the gusty winds or stormy weather.

Miscreants loot valuables

A daring and mysterious theft has been committed in the office of the principal of Tajpur College of Balaganj thana at the night following Tuesday last.

According to the reports, on the night of incident, a gang of miscreants entered into the college office by breaking open the door of the office. They took away Defence Saving Certificates worth about Taka 30,000.00 and some other valuable papers kept in the office lock.

A case in this connection had already been registered with the Balaganj thana. No arrest has yet been reported, it is alleged.

Crop lands inundated

Crop lands on about 20,000 acres in the southern part of Nabiganj thana had been inundated due to a breach on the bundh at Dhanurda between the Ahmedpur and Mathurapur.

The bundh was constructed several years ago to save the crops from the strong flow of water passing through the river Kushiya, during the monsoon.

Plying of buses in the Sherpur-Inathganj road had also been disconnected as the breach developed on the said place and strong flow of water passing through it.

Training on poultry rearing

A 10-day integrated training course on poultry rearing began at the thana parishad auditorium of Sylhet sadar recently.

Razia Begum, thana Nirbahi Officer, Sylhet sadar presided over the inaugural function while Dr Habibur Rahman, District Livestock Officer was present as chief guest.

Pry edn in Faridpur dist Post of 130 teachers remain vacant for yrs

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 12: A total of 130 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant over the years hampering education of the students in eight thanas of the district.

According to an official source out of the vacant posts 44 are of headmasters and the rest 86 are assistant teachers.

There are 546 government and 166 non-government primary schools in the district where over 1,93,000 students are studying at present.

Gosh's death anniversary observed

The 2nd death anniversary of a renowned teacher and veteran social worker Shirish Chandra Gosh was observed here recently. In this connection, Faridpur Shirish Chandra Parishad arranged a discussion meeting on the life and works of Gosh at district Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

The late Gosh served 20 years in Moizuddin High School as Assistant Headmaster, 10

years in Faridpur High School as Rector, 10 years in Imambag High School also as Rector and 20 years in municipality as Commissioner.

Besides this, he was the General Secretary of the District Teachers' Association for 30 years, President of Ram Krishna Mission for 10 years, members of the government body of Rajendra College for 15 years.

Presided over by the Principal Apurba Krishna Ghosh, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Munshi Harun, Prof M A Samad, journalist Maiz Imam Milon and Principal Mia Lutfar Rahman.

10 unnatural deaths
Ten unnatural deaths were reported in Faridpur district during the last month, police and hospital sources said.

Of them, one was murdered, two were killed in road accidents and seven persons committed suicide.

BRCS to build 5 cyclone shelters in Mehendiganj

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 12: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has undertaken a programme to construct five cyclone shelters in Mehendiganj of the district with the cooperation of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society.

Meantime, officials of Red Crescent Society, Barisal unit have already visited the proposed places and surveyed the feasibility of constructing the cyclone shelters.

Construction works of cyclone shelters will start within the next season, the sources said.

The location of these cyclone shelters are at Gazaria, Kazirchar, Char, Bholanath, Dhulia Madhyachar and Khanda Dash Hazarbiga in Mehendiganj of the district.

Another report says: The Patuakhali Pourasava has been facing manifold problems causing immense sufferings to the town dwellers as well as the people of its adjoining areas.

Our correspondent from Patuakhali stated that the deplorable condition of different roads and lanes, inadequate street light, absence of proper drainage system, unbearable mosquito menace, shortage of accommodations including recreational facilities are the main problems.

Most of the street lights remain off thus after the sunset many places in the town areas go into darkness. On the other hand, frequent power failure is also an acute problems for all. Due to erratic power supply production in mills and factories of the district are being hampered.

Roads are said to be narrow and large number of cracks have already appeared but yet the cracks remain unnoticed by the authorities. In the rainy season the roads naturally become slippery and muddy and create hindrances to the vehicular traffic.

Water supply system and arrangement is still in adequate to meet the requirement of the town dwellers. Most of the tubewells are also in the town adjoining areas have gone out of order.

Under these circumstances town dwellers have urged the concerned authorities for taking necessary steps to solve the problems as early as possible.

BRDB training course

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has so far

confirmed 20 death cases and attack of 900 people during the period.

Scarcity of pure drinking water, malnutrition, consumption of adulterated food stuff and the excessive hot spell were said to be the main reasons for the outbreak of killer disease.

Want of oral salines and high prices of medicines further aggravated the situation, some patients informed that they sometimes have to go back without proper treatment due to scarcity of essential drugs from the health complexes.

Official sources, however

Diarrhoea claims 51
in Madaripur dist

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, June 12: Diarrhoea has so far claimed 51 lives and attacked 1,000 others in six thanas of the Sariatpur district during the last three weeks.

The water-borne disease has broken out in Damuddha-Vadarganj, Goshirhat, Naria, Jangira and sadar thana of the district in an epidemic form.

According to unofficial sources, eight people died in Damiddha, 13 in Vadarganj, 20 in Goshirhat, five in Naria, three in Jangira and two in sadar thana.

Official sources, however



MADARIPUR: This bridge was constructed only 12 months back. Built for pedestrians who mostly use the bridge to cross a small stream. The fragile condition of the bridge, located in Chirapara area, is said to be ignored by the local administration despite repeated calls for repairing.

—Star photo