

District roundup

PABNA

Body recovered

July 16: Police recovered the body of a young man from the rail-line near Gafurabad railway station in Chatmohar thana early Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said Abul Kashem (30), son of Sohrab Hossain of Dibi village of the same thana was killed by some assailants early in the morning while he was going to catch a local train at Gafurabad station on way to his father-in-law's house at Sirajganj.

Police suspected the outlawed Sarbahara Party activists for the murder. The body was sent to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Chatmohar police.

MBAZAR

Degree pass course introduced

From Our Correspondent

July 16: Degree pass course have been introduced in Moulvibazar Women's College and Rajnagar College of the district from 92-93 academic session.

The authorities of the two colleges said, Chittagong University has given the affiliation to these BA and BSS (Pass) courses.

Both the colleges were established in 1985 by local initiative and got the affiliation for higher secondary level only.

With the introduction of the degree courses, a long felt demand of the local people has been fulfilled.

College authorities also added that, new teachers have been appointed and admission of the degree first year courses have already been completed.

BARISAL

BKB realises Tk 57.4cr as agri loan from s-dists

July 16: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) of Barisal region realised Taka 57.49 crore as agriculture loan from the farmers of eleven southern districts during the fiscal 1992-93 year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Rajbari.

According to an official source, the loan was disbursed among the farmers of these districts for the cultivation of ams, aman, boro, banana, betel leaf, guava, potato, vegetables and purchases of cattle, country boat, pond fisheries and cottage industry.

Of the total, Taka 5.34 crore were realised from Barisal district, Tk 5.26cr from Bhola, Tk 6.49cr from Pirojpur, Tk 3.26 cr from Jhalakati, Tk 5.68cr from Patuakhali, Tk 4.13 cr from Barguna, Tk 8.50cr from Faridpur, Tk 4.96 cr from Gopalganj, Tk 5.36cr from Madaripur, Tk 3.88 cr from Shariatpur and Tk 4.65 cr from Rajbari districts.

C'NAWABGANJ

Law, order situation reviewed

July 16: Law and order situation of Chapainawabganj district was reviewed at a meeting held recently at the conference room of the deputy commissioner here, reports BSS.

Shahidullah Miah, Deputy Commissioner, Chapainawabganj presided over the meeting. Heads of law enforcing agencies, Thana Nirbahi Officers (TNO) of five thanas, chairman of Nawabganj chamber of commerce and industry, lawyers and elite of the town attended the meeting.

The meeting resolved to take stern action against smugglers and anti-social elements with a view to maintaining law and order in the society.

SIRAJGANJ

Irregularities at HSC exam centre

From Our Correspondent

July 16: Massive irregularities have been reported in conducting the HSC examination at Chowah College under Sirajganj district.

Violating the instructions of the education board three students are being allowed to sit in each of the benches instead of two. The college authority have allegedly collected Taka 100 from each of the 525 candidates while issuing the admit cards.

A total of 53 candidates were expelled during last five days of examination.

JHENIDAH

Seven alleged dacoits arrested with huge arms

July 16: Seven alleged dacoits were arrested with huge quantity of arms and ammunition from a Dhaka bound night coach at Bhorer Bazar in Kaliganj thana on Monday night, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Seraj (21) of Beparipara of the district, Kamal (23) of Jessore, Sazzad (22) of Gaibandha, Farhad Alam (23) of Daulatpur, Mujahid (21) and Aalal (23) of Sherpur and Nayan (23) of Kaliganj.

The recovered arms include four ppeguns, one revolver, 10 rounds of bullets, one Chinese axe, one knife and three cocktail bombs, police said.

A case was filed with Kaliganj police.

BARGUNA

Female smokers on rise

July 16: The number of female smokers, an unusual phenomenon in our society, is increasing day by day in the district, elderly people alleged, says an UNB report.

They said the tendency of smoking among the old women has increased mainly in the areas of tobacco crushing mills and bidi factories throughout the district.

Local leaders said 15 out of 30 women in Kakehira village in Patharghata thana are smokers.

The landless and the labour class women were found more interested in smoking, of them, 20 per cent were said to be minors. Eighty per cent of the smokers use tobacco dusts which are cut by twisting with paper, locally known as 'nosh'. They also observed that the anti-smoking publicity is being carried out only in the urban areas but its pace in the rural areas particularly in the remote ones is very slow.

Local people urged the anti-smoking organisations to be more active in the rural areas.

SATKHIRA

Two get two years RI

From Our Correspondent

July 16: Tapan Kumar Rudra, Judge Special Tribunal Court No-3, Satkhira convicted two persons namely, Rafiqul and Shaiful of village Chhamka under sadar PS on charge of smuggling and sentenced them to suffer RI for two years and a fine of Taka 500 each in default more RI for 15 days, recently.

The prosecution story in brief is that the BDR of Satkhira caught red handed the said accused at Mridiganga under sadar PS while they were smuggling three Indian cows from India.

A case was lodged with Satkhira PS and following investigation police submitted charge sheet against the accused. The learned judge found them guilty and awarded the said punishment.

B'BARIA

BDR seizes Indian goods worth Tk 6 lakh

From Our Correspondent

July 16: Bangladesh Rifles of 32 battalion in a raid recovered Indian contraband items worth Taka six lakh at Brahmanbaria railway station from a Dhaka bound intercity train (Upakul Express) recently.

It was learnt that the smugglers in cooperation with the guardsmen and the train driver loaded the goods in a luggage van without booking at Shashidil railway station.

The recovered goods include, phensidil bottles, Indian sarees, tube lights and five kilograms of Indian hemp.

A case has been filed against the guardsmen and the train driver in this connection.

MADARIPUR

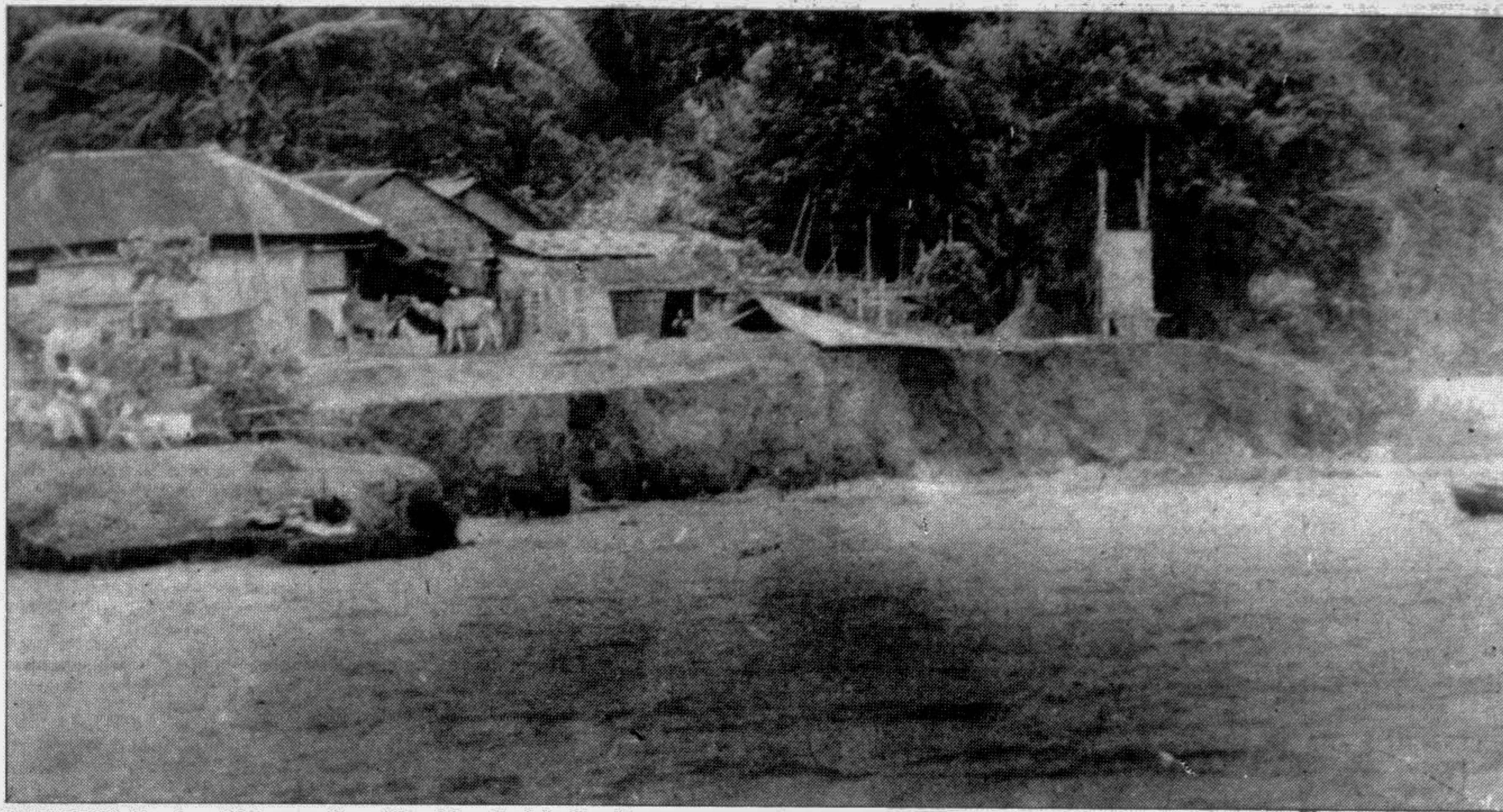
Mills closure put 4000 out of work

From Our Correspondent

July 16: There are at least 10 industrial units in greater Faridpur district which have been closed down during the past few months, resulting in unemployment of over four thousand workers.

The industries include — jute mills, textile mills, weaving, bidi factories, shallow machine repairing workshops and jute baling press.

Shortage of capitals, lack of marketing facilities, labour unrest and power failure are the main reasons for closure of the industries, said an employee.



CHANDPUR: The river Meghna eroding village Kanadi of the district.

— Photo by Enamul Huq

32 lakh children deprived of education in 10 s-dists

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 16: About 32 lakh children are deprived of education facilities in 10 southern districts of the country, it is reported.

According to source of education department the figure of school going children was 85 lakh 26 thousand nine hundred 44 children were deprived of education facilities. Further, about 30 per cent of enlisted children do not go to schools, the source disclosed.

In the survey it was also revealed that most guardians specially the rural areas show little interest due to poverty, unemployment.

These guardians are rather reluctant to send their children to work in motor garages, hotels, restaurants and grocery shops for their survival. Further, the guardians seem to think that though primary education is free of cost but most of them

cannot bear the expenses of dresses and other expenses.

It may be noted that the posts of three hundred 22 teachers including the posts of one hundred 10 head teachers are lying vacant in these schools.

Absence of proper bus terminal

Thousands of passengers are suffering badly for want of bus terminal at Jhenidah town.

It is reported that the passengers who travel through Kushtia-Khulna, Faridpur-Khulna, Meherpur-Khulna and Jhenidah-Jessore route through Jhenidah have no such bus terminal at Jhenidah. As a result, the passengers, specially the women and children suffer most during rainy seasons.

Further due to lack of proper bus stand, the vehicles remain parked on the roads causing immense traffic jams frequently.

One of the local transport owner while talking to this correspondent said that he and his other colleagues appealed to the concerned authority several times for construction of a proper bus terminal, however, no such initiative was undertaken. If this condition continues for long the situation of the roads around the present stoppage area is likely to further deteriorate, said a number of transport businessmen.

Introduction of Hons, Masters degree courses demanded

NAOGAON, July 16: Despite repeated appeal from the students, Naogaon Government College is yet to introduce Honours and Masters degree depriving the students of higher education, reports UNB.

Naogaon Government College is the lone seat of higher education in the district of 11 thanas. It teaches HSC and Degree Pass Courses in science, arts and commerce.

Local student organisations has repeatedly asked the college authorities to introduce Honours and Masters degrees in the college in the greater interest of the district. But the college has yet to introduce the higher studies facilities.

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Irregularities in auction of goods at Benapole

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 16: Massive irregularities in auction of goods at Benapole warehouse, have been causing heavy revenue losses to government, said a source.

It is learnt, recommendatory committee, submitted price list of certain auctionable goods fixed by price fixation committee to the Collector, Customs, Jessore recently in compliance with his decision to auction ten items.

As per the order of Collector and Assistant Collector, Customs as Headquarter, issued memo to the Expo-Traders to arrange for the auction in their letters in early May. The collector also had instructed in the letter under reference not to auction some items, including lot numbers 128, 227, 325, 351, 357, 134 and 14, pending examinations.

Superintendent, Customs (Auction) asked Expo-Traders vide his letter dated 14/4/93 to go for auction except fifty-two items.

Accordingly, tenders were invited. Copy of Super's, Customs (Auction) letter with detailed particular of those fifty-two items were mentioned in tender. But lot numbers 14, 227 and 134 were crept in the bottom of the tender form despite the instructions. Forty-seven lots were auctioned to highest bidders and the detailed particulars were later published. It was found to the surprise of all that out of lot auctioned, three lots, kept suspended, were given approval. These were lot numbers 218,

its actual value was ten lakh.

When contacted, the Collector, Customs, Jessore, told The Daily Star that approval order of lot number 218, 220 and 230 as auctioned earlier, had been cancelled. A probe committee was formed to enquire into the happenings and report so as to enable him to take departmental actions against those responsible.

But how and when the report will be submitted, is now a question.

Once again lot number 227 was auctioned at Taka three lakh thirtysix thousand while

Civic life miserable in Nawabganj pourashava

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 16: Nawabganj Pourashava has been beset with various problems causing inconveniences to the dwellers, reports UNB.

The dilapidated condition of roads, lack of proper drainage system, inadequate water supply and absence of conservancy service made the civic life miserable.

The one fourth of the total roads of pourashava is metalled and the remaining portion is kutcha. Due to lack of proper maintenance and repair, cracks and potholes have developed at many points of the roads. The situation turns worse during the rainy season.

There are many kutcha drains filled with garbage and stagnant water which are the ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes. There are no dustbins in the poura areas and

dwellers used to dump their garbage in the drain blocking the normal water outlet.

The street lights are quite insufficient and many roads have no electric light at all. Water supply is also irregular causing suffering to the dwellers.

A large number unauthorised shops were set up on the roads and footpaths creating much trouble to the pedestrians.

Mosquito menace has increased in the town. Despite repeated appeals the authority did not take any step to fight the menace.

The increasing number of pye dogs are posing a threat to the town dwellers. These dogs are found in meat, fish, milk and molasses markets and in front of hotels and restaurants.



RAJSHAHI: The central students union of RU brought out a procession protesting the appointment of Mokbul Hossain as treasurer of the university recently.

— Star photo

World Population Day observed

COMILLA, July 16: World Population Day was observed in the district as elsewhere in the country on Sunday, reports UNB.

Different government and non-government organisations held rallies and arranged discussion meetings to mark the day.

Family Planning Department and other NGOs jointly brought out a colourful procession in which people from all walks of life in the town took part.

The procession led by the Deputy Director, Family Planning, paraded the main roads of the town carrying colourful posters and festoons chanting slogans in favour of adopting family planning methods to check the population boom.

Later, a seminar was held at Jagannathpur Primary Schools with the Family Planning Deputy Director in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by UP Chairman Shafi Majumder, Manirul Islam Bhuiyan, ADC Shamsul Haque and Civil Surgeon Dr Shamsul Haq.

Flood damages most roads in Maulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, July 16: The recent devastating flood has damaged almost all the roads under the Roads and Highways Department (R&H) and the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Moulvibazar district.

A total of 170-kilometre of roads out of 282-kilometre in the district under R&H went under flood water. The roads are: Moulvibazar-Kulaura Road, Juri-Fultala Road, Brahminbazar-Shamsernagar Road, Moulvibazar-Shamsernagar Road and Kamalganj-Munshibazar Road.

More over, 13 bridges and culverts were also fully or partly damaged by the flood water. Twelve roads covering 121-kilometre under LGED in the district have been damaged by the devastating flood. According

to LGED source, the roads are: Kamalganj-Adampur Road, Srimongal-Sindurkhan Road, Kulaura-Rabirbazar Road, Baralekha-Kanungo Bazar Road, Dasherbazar-Fakirbazar Road, Chadnighat-Uluall-Ekatura Road, Rajnagar-Fatehpur Road, Hilalpur-Jagatshree-Shamsergonj Road, Brahminbazar-Fenchuganj Road and Kamadpur-Tilokpur Road.

The bituminous pavement of about 26-kilometre of these roads and 48-kilometre of earthen roads were badly damaged by flood.

About 150-metre-long bridge and culverts were also damaged by the flood waters coming through hundreds of breaches in the embankment along rivers the Monu, the Dholai and the Juri.

Fire destroys property worth Tk 100 cr in Barisal division

BARISAL, July 16: Some 61 fire incidents took place in the Barisal division destroying property worth about Taka 100 crore during the last year, reports UNB.

According to Fire Service and Civil Defence officials, of the total fire incidents, majority occurred in dwelling houses. Besides, markets, offices, hospitals and factories were also gutted during the period.

The sources said there is no workshop for repair of the vehicles of the Fire Service and Civil Defence department. As a result, most of the vehicles remained out of order hampering the normal functioning of the

department.

Another report says: Construction work on a four-storied hostel building of Barisal Government Women's College is progressing with an estimated cost of Taka 76 lakh during the current financial year. The work is expected to be completed by June, next year.

Meanwhile, Facilities Department has undertaken a scheme to construct a two-storied building of Bakarkathi Girls' High School at Nalchity in Jhalakathi district at a cost of Taka 16 lakh.

The work is progressing fast and is expected to be completed by December next.

Anti-liberation elements hatching conspiracy, says Jahanara

FENI, July 16: Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samannay Committee Convenor Jahanara Inam Tuesday said anti-liberation elements and war criminals

penetrating socio-political and administrative sectors were hatching conspiracy against the country and the spirit of Liberation War, reports UNB.

She also criticised the ruling party for "breach of commitment" for upholding the spirit of the War of Liberation as per the consensus contained in declaration of three alliances.

Addressing a public meeting at Feni Trunk Road Square in the afternoon, Jahanara Inam said whoever launched movement against the fundamental-

ists were branded as Indian agents.

Maulana Bhashani and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were also branded by them as Indian agents, but the allegation was proved baseless by the people, she said.

She called upon all upholding the spirit of Liberation War and the people of all walks to come forward to resist the anti-liberation forces.

Referring to the success of the movement of Nirmul Committee in the last one and half years, Jahanara Inam said the people of the country did not elect any anti-liberation elements in the last Pourashava election.

Construction of BM college science building on

BARISAL, July 16: Construction work on a three-storied science building is progressing in BM College with an estimated cost of Taka 82.50 lakh, reports UNB.

Facilities Department is implementing the project. The work is expected to be completed by December next, official sources said.

Meanwhile, high quality seeds and fertilizers have already been distributed among the farmers free of cost.

Another report adds: The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education is implementing a project of construction of a four-storied hostel building of Bakerganj Government College. Official sources said the construction work is expected to be completed by June, next year, with an estimated cost of about Taka 77 lakh.

China clay project yet to be implemented

NAOGAON, July 16: Ambati China Clay project, initiated in 1969 in the then Pakistan period, in Patnitala thana of the district has not been implemented as yet, reports UNB.

The projects was taken up to export China clay and earn foreign currency. But the project has not been implemented since then for unknown reasons.

A survey team while looking for coal at Ambati village found high quality of China clay there recently.

The local people have urged the government to start the project a fresh as quickly as possible.