

District roundup

NETRAKONA

Water borne diseases break out

July 17: Different water borne diseases including diarrhoea have broken out in an epidemic form in different parts of Netrakona district which was severely hit by flood last week, reports BSS.

Unofficial reports reaching here from the haor areas in Khalajuri, Mohanganj and Madan thana under Netrakona district said that at least three persons died of diarrhoea and over one hundred people were attacked by the disease during the last three days. However, Netrakona civil surgeon's office did not confirm the death reports.

NOAKHALI

BKB disburses Taka 4.4 crore agri loan

July 17: Bangladesh Krishi Bank BKB disbursed Taka 4.44 crore loan till June 30 among the farmers through its 17 branches in the region, says UNB.

The bank realised outstanding loan of about Taka 6.18 crore out of Taka 10.68 crore during the period. At least 654 certificate cases have been filed against the defaulters.

Official sources said that various steps have been taken to expedite disbursing of loan and realising the arrears.

SHERPUR

Flood situation improves

July 17: The overall flood situation in Sherpur has been gradually improving with the recession of flood water from the affected areas, reports BSS.

The flood hit people, who had taken refuge in different flood shelters, have started returning to their homes.

The district authorities have allocated 12 metric tons of rice for the flood victims on emergency basis.

JHENIDAH

Boy killed in road mishap

July 17: A boy was ranover by a speeding private car near Bordah Madrasa on Jhenidah-Kushtia road in Shailakupa thana of the district Wednesday, reports UNB.

Nannu (10), son of Sanaruddin of Sreepur village of the thana, was knocked down from behind by a speeding Jhenidah bound private car while he was crossing the road, witnesses and family sources said.

On his way to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, Nannu succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile, driver of the killer car, managed to escape from the scene.

A case was filed with local police in this connection.

B'BARIA

BDR seizes 1075 kg fish

July 17: Bangladesh Rifles personnel recovered 1075 kg hilsa fish from Akhaura border belt area last week, reports UNB.

Acting on information, BDR yawans of 32 Rifle Battalion raided the area and seized the fish which were being smuggled out of the country.

None was, however, arrested in his connection. The fishes were deposited with the local customs.

BARGUNA

Pedestrians suffer due to traffic jams

July 17: Vehicular traffic in the town has become hazardous following indiscriminate parking of motor vehicles, occupation of footpaths by the small traders and mounting pressure of rickshaws, reports UNB.

Town dwellers alleged that parking of vehicles in the busy areas and occupation of footpaths by small traders create traffic jams obstructing the movement of pedestrians.

Pourasabha sources said about 10,000 rickshaws having licence ply on the roads but the number of rickshaws without licence is more than double.

The rickshaws having licences of the adjoining unions also ply on the town roads making the traffic problem more acute. Lack of traffic knowledge of the rickshawpullers multiplies the problem.

On the other hand, the footpaths are usually occupied by the traders in the busy commercial areas of the town which also hinders the movement of pedestrians.

MYMENSINGH

Govt blamed for corruption, anarchy

July 17: Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman Friday blamed the government for corruption, anarchy and frustration in society and said wrong policy of BNP has crippled the national economy, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at Mymensingh Railway Station premises this afternoon, Rahman said the present government has totally failed to run the country and the whole nation has been kept hostage at the hands of terrorists.

He said the country's independence is at stake because of evil activities of anti-liberation elements under the patronisation of the government.

The Awami League leader asked the pro-liberation forces to unitedly resist the conspiracy against independence and democracy.

He also urged the people to observe the countrywide hartal on July 19.

MADARIPUR

Pisciculture project undertaken

July 17: Thirty-nine derelict ponds of Sadar, Kalkini and Shibchar thanas have been brought under fish cultivation by the members of the destitute group of the Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), reports UNB.

These privately owned derelict ponds were re-excavated in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. The FAO has already sanctioned 508 metric tons of wheat for the project.

BRDB sources said the ponds — 23 in Sadar, 9 in Kalkini and 7 in Shibchar — were taken on lease for 10 years from the owners for pisciculture.

Besides pisciculture, improved varieties of banana, papaya and vegetables will be cultivated on the banks of these ponds.

Five workers were given training for each of the ponds for fish cultivation.

A total of 780 male and female members of 39 teams will get the benefit out of the project for 10 years.

FARIDPUR

Zonal scouts conference held

July 17: The first zonal scouts conference of greater Faridpur area was held on Wednesday at local scouts bhavan, reports BSS.

Badir Rahman, Commissioner of Dhaka Division and National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts attended the conference as chief guest. It was presided over by KM Nurul Huda, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur and ex-officio president of the district committee. Among others, the other deputy commissioners and ex-officio presidents of the district committees and secretaries attended the conference.

District committee members and presidents and secretaries of the thana committees were also present.

Organisational matters of the scouts and its present activities in this area were discussed in the conference. The delegates put up various suggestions to activate the scout movement in greater Faridpur area.

Badir Rahman stressed the need for expanding scout movement among school students with more zeal and dedications spirits.

MANIKGANJ

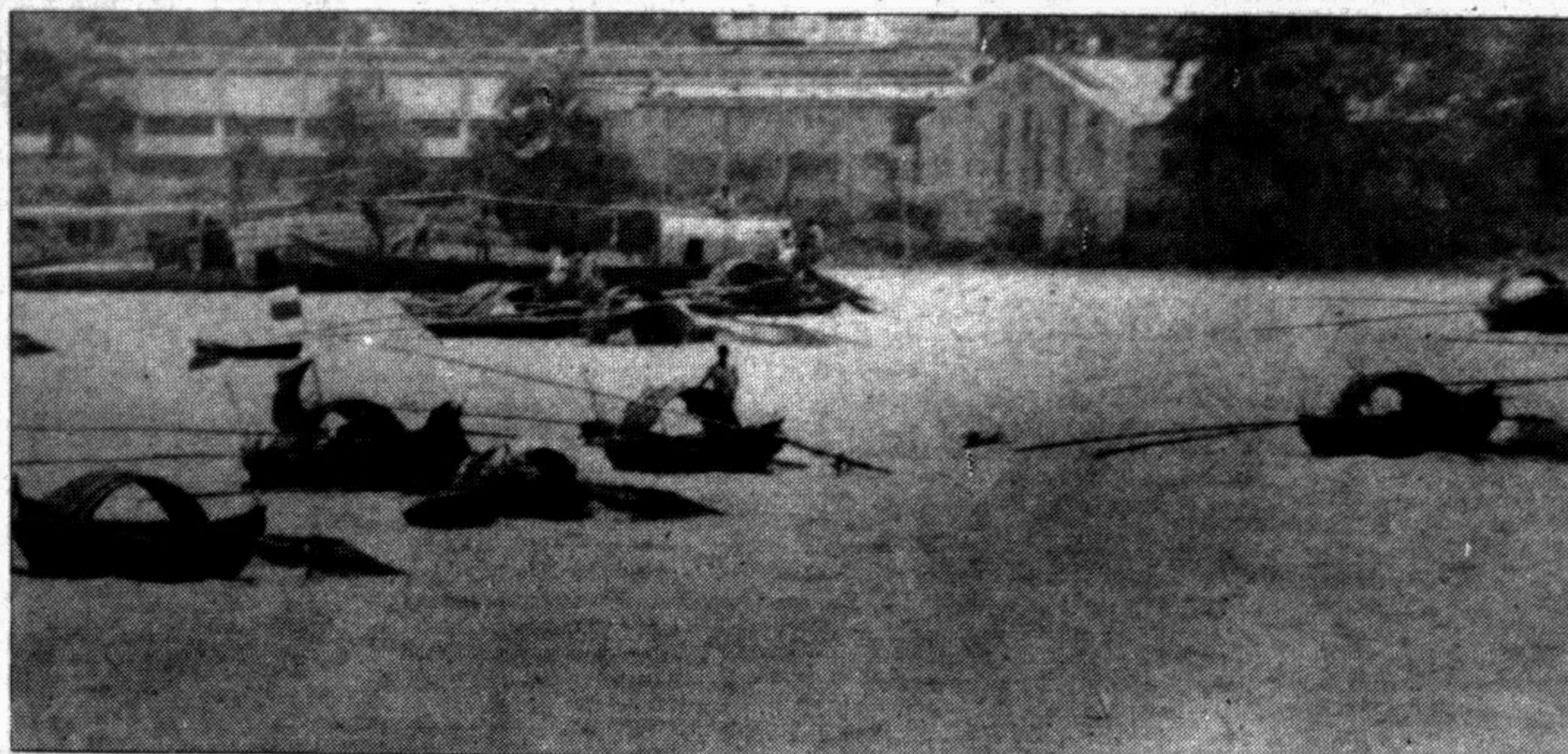
Chief Whip visits erosion hit areas

July 17: Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain Friday visited the erosion hit areas from Toraghat to Bharnagathuri under Gheor and Daulatpur thanas of Manikganj district, a PID hand-out said, reports BSS.

During the visit he exchanged views with people at different places and advised them to face the natural calamities with courage.

He assured them all possible assistance to overcome the sufferings of the affected people.

The badly affected erosion hit areas of the district are — Bachamapara, Paugtia, Jionpur, Char Kathari and Poila under Daulatpur and Gheor thana. Recently erosion in the rivers Kalliganga and Jamuna have rendered hundreds of people homeless.



FISHING IN THE RIVER: The fishermen are fishing. During rainy season, the fishermen get wider space for fishing. — Star photo

Jamuna erosion leaves 1100 families homeless

PABNA, July 17: Some 100 families were rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Jamuna at eight villages in Bera thana of the district during the last 24 hours, reports UNB.

The villages are: Nakalia, Nayanpur, Bijoyganj, Sarsha, Madhupur, Randhunikata, Aminganj and Bholanagat.

The affected people took shelter on local flood control embankment and passing their miserable days.

Local leaders urged the concerned authorities to immediately provide food and medicine as relief to them.

Meanwhile, nine villages in three thanas of the district were inundated by flood waters due to continuous rainfall during the period, raising the total number of flood-affected villages to 49, official sources said.

The new villages, are: Mohampur, Aminpur, Dalarchar in Bera thana, Shahkaganj, Nazirganj, Raniganj and Ahmedpur in Sujanagar thana and Balarampur and Goshpur in Sadar thana.

Besides, standing crops on 40,000 acres of lands were damaged by flood waters in five thanas of the district in the last seven days.

The mighty Jamuna was flowing four centimeters below the danger mark but might cross the level at any time, officials said.

Another report from Sirajganj: About 1000 families were rendered homeless in 45 villages in five thanas of the district during the last 24 hours due to erosion.

Of the affected families, 500 are in Kazipur, 110 in Sadar, 100 in Belkuch, 90 in Chouhali and 200 in Shahzadpur thanas.

They took shelters at nearby schools and college and houses of their relatives. But no relief material reached the affected areas as yet, local UP chairmen said.

At least 400 acres of agricultural lands, three mosques and three primary schools were also devoured by the Jamuna during the period.

The erosion in river Jamuna intensified due to heavy rainfall, rapid recession of flood waters and sandy muds on the shores, the UP chairmen added.

Meanwhile, flood waters inundated some 12 villages in Tarash and 7 villages in Ullapara due to heavy rainfall and rise of water level in the river Kamuri.

Indian goods flood local markets

SIRAJGANJ, July 17: Smuggled Indian goods has flooded the local markets of the district, causing harm to domestic production, reports UNB.

A survey report here recently said Indian goods like sarce, yarn, sugar, salt, edible oil, spices, drugs, eggs, cattleheads and cosmetics were abundantly found in the local markets.

It was learnt the goods were smuggled in the district through Jamtali, used as transit point, by boat, launch and train and distributed to various places.

Moreover, most Indian food items were adulterated and they caused health hazards to the people, local doctors said.

Various diseases like jaundice, dysentery, rheumatic fever were caused due to consumption of the adulterated food items.

Local leaders alleged that the smuggling is carried out before the very nose of law enforcing agencies.

Exhibition of obscene film

Screening of obscene films is going on unabated in different parts of nine thanas of the district, causing serious concern among the conscious people.

More than 100 VCP centres have been set up in different parts to the district for screening obscene Hindi and English films round the clock, local people alleged.

It is learnt most of the spectators belong to the school and college going students who often enjoy the films instead of attending their classes.

Hemayetpur Mental Hospital Treatment facilities inadequate

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 17: The only mental hospital of the country has been facing various problems due to shortage of doctors, medicine, bed, out of order ambulance and X-ray machine and inadequate treatment equipment.

The mental hospital was established about 41 years back at Hemayetpur in Pabna district.

At present there are 10 doctors, 70 nurses and 125 ward boys who are looking after about 400 mental patients.

The problems faced by the patients as well as the doctors are quite serious. For instance, there is no pathological laboratory. As a result, examinations can not be carried out at the hospital. Laboratory tests are done from other private clinics.

The radiology department is also said to be inoperative for a long time. There is no one to operate the machine. Doctors who look after the department remain absent for most of the time for quite a long time.

The only vehicle serving as ambulance has been lying out of order for the last eight years. No step has been taken to repair the ambulance.

The number of beds (400) available for the patients has not been increased since the beginning of the hospital in 1952. Obviously, the demand increases everyday since this is the lone hospital for mental patients in the country. Out of 12

male wards, one is now used as the drug cure centre. It is interesting to note that the number of paying beds has been reduced to 220, 10 per cent of which the chronic patients occupy for the last 25 years.

Diet supplied to the patients are of low standard. Only 18 taka is sanctioned for three meals a day for each patient, which couldn't be any less torture than on an inmate of a jail.

Recreation for the patients is almost ignored by the authority. The playing ground is not fit for use. Besides, the only cinema hall meant for the patients has been closed for the last 15 years.

An official of the hospital expressed that the concerned government officials always reluctant to improve the hospital facilities. He further added that during the last eleven years no official has visited the spot to look into the problems faced by the hospital despite repeated calls.



FARIDPUR: K M Nurul Huda, DC, Faridpur speaking at a seminar organised on the occasion of 'International Day against Drug Abuse'. Narcotics Control Department and local Lions Club organised the seminar. — Star photo

Tk 25 lakh for development of Barisal stadium

BARISAL, July 17: The government has sanctioned Taka 25 lakh for the development of the Barisal Stadium in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, this money will be spent for construction of gallery, barbed-wire-fencing and drainage system of the stadium.

The work of the project will be implemented within current fiscal year.

Headmaster suspended for misappropriation of fund

PABNA, July 17: Headmaster of a local school was suspended Wednesday for his alleged misappropriation of Taka 43,020 from the fund of the institution, reports UNB.

Managing Committee sources said Habibur Rahman, Headmaster of Atakula High School in Sathia thana misappropriated the amount during the last two years.

A two-member committee to probe into the matter was formed and on the basis of the report he has been put under suspension, the sources said.

JCD activists expelled from party

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 17: Seven JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) activists of Jessore Polytechnic College have been expelled from party for alleged involvement in anti-social activities, violation of party discipline and deliberate intention to destabilising party image.

They are college union VP Farhad Hossain, GS Nuzul Hasan Nayan, AGS Alauddin Ali Sajal college students' leaders Kamal, Mokaddas, Siraj and Mojahid.

The decision has been taken following their arrest with arms and ammunition at Borobazar by police while they were moving in a Dhaka-bound night coach Monday night.

All the seven were expelled from the party in a meeting of the district committee on similar allegations, said a source.

Two killed, 20 hurt in road accident

RANGPUR, July 17: Two people were killed and 20 others including a MP were injured in a road mishap at Baro Majidpur in Pirganj thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The seriously injured parliament member of Jatiya Party Paritosh Chakrabarty was admitted to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dinajpur bound night coach — SR Travels — hit a truck standing on the roadside after the driver lost its control.

The identities of the dead could not be known immediately. A case has been filed with the police.

BAU Masters classes from Aug 1

AGRI-VARSITY, July 17: Admission to MS and M Sc courses under various teaching departments of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) for the sessions 1989-90 and 1990-91 will be completed by July 29, says a notification issued recently by the Coordinator of the Committee for Advanced Studies and Research (CASR), BAU.

The concerned students have been asked to contact the relevant offices in order to complete their admission formalities.

The classes of MS and M Sc courses for the above sessions will begin on August 1.

Tk 1.44 lakh recovered from looters

FARIDPUR, July 17: The investigating endeavour of a mu-fassil correspondent of a national daily resulted in recovery of Taka 1,44,600 of the total money looted from a nationalised bank here, reports UNB.

According to bank sources, some miscreants looted Taka 23,49,500 from the Modhukhali branch of Sonali Bank by breaking open the vault on March 6.

After the incident police arrested five people including the branch manager of the bank. Later, a guard of a nearby Sonali Bank confessed his involvement in the dacoity.

But police failed either to arrest his accomplices or to recover the looted money.

Meanwhile, Ilias Siddiqui, Madhukhali Correspondent of the Dainik Banglar Bani kept his secret investigation going to unearth the clue of the dacoity.

On June 23, after three months of the incident, he caught Ekram Ali, a day labourer of village Del Muthurapur in Madhukhali thana and recovered Taka 7,800 from his possession. After his confession, Taka 9,300 was recovered from the possession of another day labourer of the same village. Subsequently, he recovered Taka 32,000 from the possession of Bachchu of village Hatkholar Char in Boalmari thana and Taka 95,500 was recovered from Shamsuddin, an incumbent UP member in Madhukhali thana.

Thus Ilias Siddiqui recovered Taka 1,44,600 by his personal initiative and relentless efforts.

However, all the four people said they found the money from a jute field near the bank.

Incomplete bridge

Another report adds: Road communication between Nagarkanda and district town could not be established since long due to non-completion of a bally bridge on the river Kumar.

People of Nagarkanda thana have been facing much inconvenience for want of this important bridge.

Sources said the Road and Highways Department issued work order to a contractor for erection of a 300 feet long bally bridge in 1991 at a cost of Taka 55 lakh.

The work was scheduled to be completed by June 1992. The construction work of 200 feet of the bridge was completed in due time.

But the remaining work of 100 feet of bridge could not be completed till June this year due to lack of construction materials, official sources added.

One to suffer 10 yrs RI for keeping arms

COMILLA, July 17: A man was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in a judgement delivered here recently for keeping unauthorised arms, court sources said on Friday, reports UNB.

Additional Session and Special Tribunal Judge Mohammad Nurul Wadud found accused Nur Ahmed guilty under the Arms Act.

Two other accused Jafar and Merajul Karim were acquitted of the charge.

According to the case, the accused attacked Abul Kalam Azad alias Nayan, ex-chairman of Kankapit union parishad in Chawddagram thana, with arms near Dhorkara Bazar and fired several shots at him on February 3 last year.

Local people gheraoed the miscreants and rounded up two of them along with a pipe gun and several rounds of bullets.

Police later submitted charge sheet against the accused after investigation.

Soy-food demonstration

A day long demonstration of Soy-food, sponsored by the Sadar Agriculture Extension Department (AED), was held at the auditorium of Kotwali thana Central Cooperative Association.

The exhibition was aimed at popularising the use of Soy-food among the rural people, official sources said.

A total of 150 people, including 70 women, took part in the demonstration of preparation of Soy-food held on July 9.

Some 20 varieties of Soy-foods were prepared during the demonstration, conducted by block Supervisor Nasima Akhter.

Mohammad Fazul Karim Dewan, Deputy, Director, AED of the district presided over the function while Anwarul Islam Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was present as the chief guest.

Solution to water logging problem demanded

COMILLA, July 17: A rally of the representatives of farmers, organised by the South Comilla Flood Control Committee, was held at Professorpara in the town on Wednesday, reports UNB.

It was presided over by peasant leader Abdul Majid Majumder while Principal Abul Kalam Majumder was present as chief guest.

The speakers said the people of southern Comilla are the worst affected by the recurrent floods rendering many people destitute every year. They said water logging is the burning problem for the people of the area.

They said every year crops and kutchas houses worth lakhs of taka are being destroyed by the natural calamities due to absence of adequate embankments and other necessary measures.

They called upon the government to take immediate schemes to check the onrush of flood water in the low lying areas to save the standing crops of the farmers.

Prof Mohammad Abdul Aziz took over as the Chairman of the Comilla Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education.

He was the Principal of Rajshahi Government College.

The newly-appointed Chairman along with Secretary of the Board Prof Haron-Al Huq visited the HSC examination centre at Comilla Ajit Guha College on the first day of his joining on July 5.

He expressed his satisfaction over peaceful holding of the examinations at the centre.

Influenza spreading in district alarmingly

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 17: Influenza has been spreading in an alarming rate in all the thanas of the district causing grave concern among the people.

About 65 to 70 per cent people of the district so far have been attacked by the disease, the district health officials said.

The worst affected thanas are Sadar Rajtor, Kalkini and Shibchar.

Almost each and every family in these areas has one or more patients, the sources added.

Each day a good number of patients from different villages are pouring into the thana health complexes and hospitals for treatment. Doctors and health officials who have visited the affected areas identified poor sanitation and taking adulterated food for the outbreak of the disease.

Another report says: Almost all the markets in Madaripur Municipality are beset with manifold problems, causing sufferings to both the buyers and sellers for quite a long time.

The markets are faced with insufficient accommodation, unplanned drainage system deplorable conditions of roads, haphazard growth of roadside shops and irregular clearance of garbage.

Most markets have not been expanded with the growth of populations. As a result, these are often overawed.

Besides, roads and lanes

Two enter into well, die

CHUADANGA, July 17: Two people were killed and another one was seriously injured when they entered into a well at Ramnagar village in Damrhubuda thana of the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Hasina Khatun (12) and Abu Taher (28) of the same village.

Hasina and Taher went down into the well to bring back a goat which fell into it accidentally, but did not return.

Later, their bodies were recovered by the Chuadanga fire brigade men from the well.

Local people said another person Ashadul Haque also fell ill when he went down into the well and rescued by the firemen.