

District roundup

B'BARIA

Flood destroys pisciculture projects

From Our Correspondent

July 18: The recent flash flood due to torrential rain and onrush of hilly water has badly affected the pond fisheries and fish cultivation projects in the district causing huge financial losses to the pisciculture.

MADARIPUR

Load shedding frequent

From Our Correspondent

July 18: Electricity consumers here are facing manifold problems due to frequent load shedding and over billing. Local people complain that due to frequent load shedding hampers production in mills and factories.

FARIDPUR

AGM of Press Club held

From Our Correspondent

July 18: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and election of the executive committee of Faridpur Press Club was held here at club auditorium recently.

Md Liaquat Hossain, President of the club conducted the election.

The new office-bearers of the committee are: President — Md Imamul Azam Abdur Rab, vice presidents — Jogodish Chandra Ghose (Bangladesh Observer) and Md Asraful Azam Abdur Rab (Islufuling), General Secretary — Md Abdul Ali Siddik (Bangladesh Times), Joint Secretary — Md Salauddin Bablu (Dainik Inqlab), Treasurer — Md Ali Asraf (Dainik Sangram) and ex-office Md Liaquat Hossain (BTV/Dainik Bangla).

The elected members are: Md Syedur Rahman (Ratan) (Daily Star), Md Delower Hossain (Dainik Ittefaq), Ahmad Feroze (Dainik Mellat) and Md Tomizuddin Taz (Dainik Dinkul).

CHUADANGA

World Population Day observed

From Our Correspondent

July 18: The World Population Day '93 was observed here recently.

On this occasion, a day-long programme was chalked out by the Chuadanga district Family Planning Department. The programme included a big procession of the family planning departmental officials, health visitors, family planning assistants and family planning welfare assistants. The processionists bearing placards and banners paraded through main streets of the town chanting slogans.

In the afternoon, a discussion meeting was held at Dingdah High School auditorium under Sankar Chandra union of Sadar thana. The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga M Tajul Islam was present on the occasion as the chief guest. Abu Eusuf, Deputy Director of Family Planning, Chuadanga presided over the function.

NAOGAON

Two arrested with gun

July 18: Sadar thana police recovered one pipe-gun and arrested two people in this connection, police said here Tuesday, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided a cow-shed of Afzar Ali Mondal at Bhimpur village and recovered the arms on Saturday.

Police also arrested Afzar Ali Mondal and Abdul Jabbar in this connection. A case has been filed against them.

Another report adds that a workshop of Union Parishad Chairmen was held at the local thana Development Centre recently.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam was present as chief guest while Deputy Commissioner Mahmood Hossain Alamgir, Dr Saber Ali, Afzar Ali also attended as special guests.

Chairmen from 11 thanas participated in the workshop.

RANGPUR

One sentenced to life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent

July 18: Ali Asgar Khan, District and Sessions Judge, Rangpur as sentenced one Bedu Mia of Taraganj thana to life-term and fined him Tk five thousand in default to suffer another one year RI on charge of killing his wife.

Prosecution story in brief was that accused Bedu Mia had hit by a stick his wife for breaking a leg of a domestic goat. His wife died on the spot.

Taraganj police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against Bedu Mia. Prosecution case was conducted by Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, PP, Rangpur.

Another report says: Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) has realised a revenue of Tk 139 crore 37 lakh up to May since July last, from northern zone Rajshahi division.

About 56 thousand electric connections were snapped for non-payment of arrear dues.

KHULNA

Speaker calls for ensuring health care for children

July 18: Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Razzaque Ali called for ensuring proper health care for children in the country, reports BSS.

"Proper health care for children is our moral obligation," the speaker said while addressing the inaugural function of the newly-constructed building of Khulna Shishu Hospital on Friday at the hospital premises.

The hospital was established and run by Khulna Shishu Foundation. The building was constructed at a cost of about Taka 18 lakh.

Presided over by the Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Kukhtadir Chowdhury, who is also the president of the foundation, the function was addressed, among others, by the Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and noted child specialist Dr M R Khan.

Sheikh Razzaque Ali called upon the people especially the affluent ones to extend their helping hands to the medicare service for children and destitutes.

NETRAKONA

Post-flood rehabilitation programme

July 18: A post-flood rehabilitation programme sponsored by Concern, Non-Government Organisation (NGO) was started on Saturday in the remote haor areas of Khalajuri thana under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona Dewan Aferuddin said that a relief team of the NGO called on him at his office yesterday. The team informed him that under the post-flood rehabilitation programme, they would distribute 40,000 kgs of rice, 40,000 kgs of pulse, 10,000 pieces of saree, 1,000 pieces of lungi, 2,000 sets of baby garments, 2,000 packets of biscuits and 3,000 packets of oral saline among the flood victims of the haor areas of Chakua, Mandipur and Kripanapur union under Khalajuri thana.

The flood triggered by onrush of hilly water from across the border had caused extensive damage to crops and property in Khalajuri thana.

BARISAL

Four killed in incidents

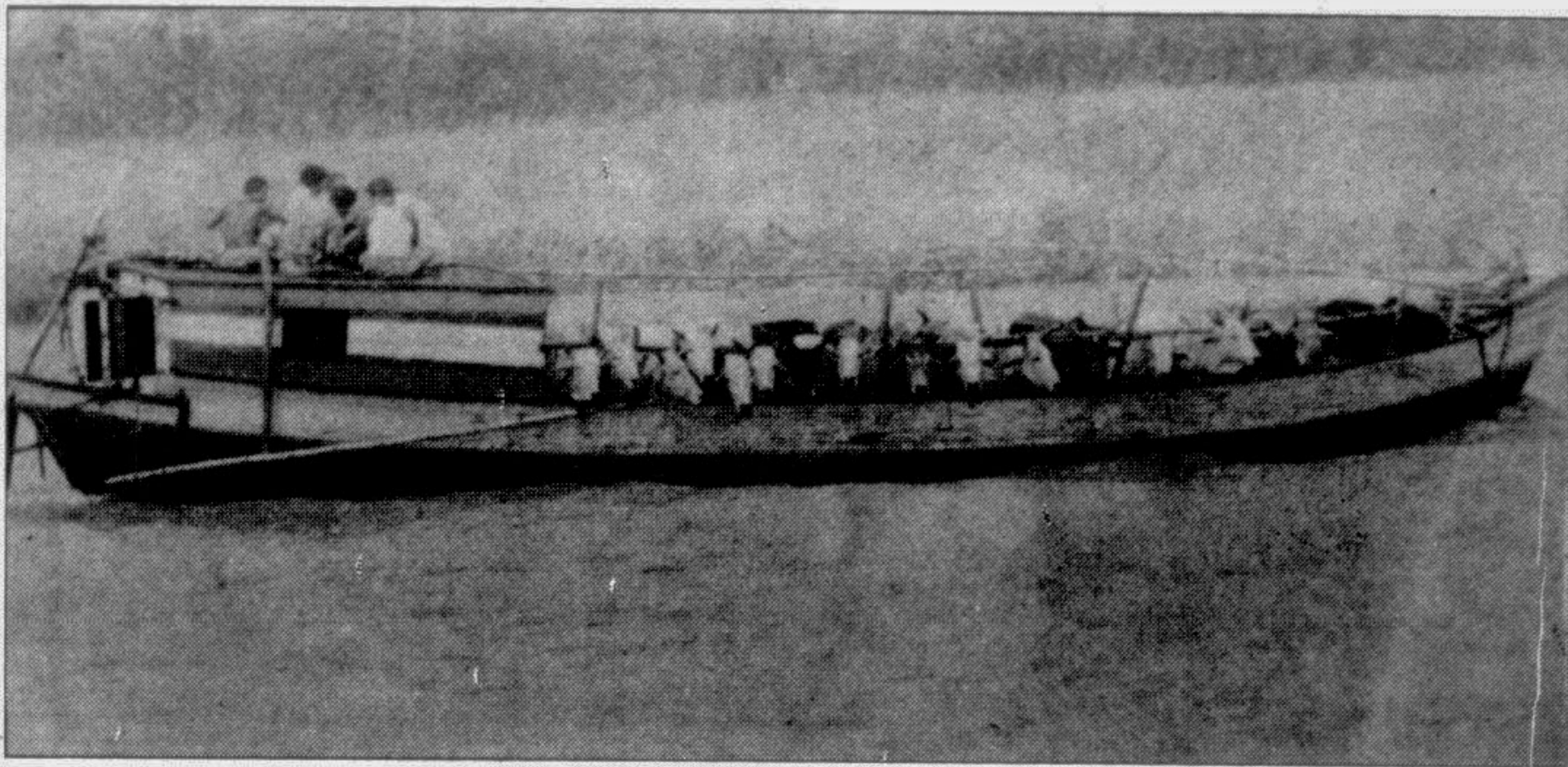
July 18: Four persons including one woman were killed in the district in separate accidents recently, police sourry said, reports UNB.

One A Satter (35), a helper of a passenger bus, was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Rakudia under Babugaing thana about 15 kilometres from here. One Kazi Mosharraf Hossain (32), a boatman, was killed near Miarhat launchghat, about 30 kilometres from here in Sandhya river while he was allegedly wrapped round the paddles of a passenger launch on Thursday.

One Shiuli Akhtar (20), a housewife of the village Kandapasha, under Gournadi thana was allegedly killed on Tuesday. One rickshawpuller Babul (30) was allegedly killed in a grocery at Hospital road on Friday.

All the bodies were sent to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Separate police cases were filed with respective thana, the source added.



CHANDPUR: Indian cattle are being carried by small cargoes through river Meghna almost regularly. — Star photo

Bumper aman production expected

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 18: At least 35.66 lakh metric tons of aman paddy likely to be produced in 16 northern districts of the country during the current fiscal year, official sources disclosed.

According to the sources, over 16.16 lakh hectares of land have been brought under aman paddy cultivation in the sixteen districts.

These districts are divided into two zones — Rajshahi and Rangpur. The district-wise break-up of the two zones are as follows: Under Rajshahi zone, 65,700 metric tons of aman paddy is expected to be produced on over 27,000 hectares of land in Natore while 1,22,600 metric tons on over 52,000 hectares of land in Chapainawabganj, 3,48,200 metric tons on 1,63,000 hectares of land in Naogaon, 4,02,600 metric tons on 1,83,000 hectares of land in

Bogra, 1,72,000 metric tons of aman on 71,000 hectares of land in Joyipurhat, 87,200 metric tons on 34,000 hectares in Pabna, 1,10,000 metric tons on 53,800 hectares in Sirajganj and 1,62,600 metric tons on 69,000 hectares of land in Rajshahi.

Under Rangpur zone, 2,42,000 metric tons of aman paddy is expected on 1,16,000 hectares of land in Kurigram while 2,56,600 metric tons on 1,19,000 hectares in Gaibandha 2,26,610 metric tons on 1,02,850 hectares in Nilphamari 1,63,260 metric tons on 74,000 hectares in Lalmonirhat, 1,82,264 metric tons on over 90,000 hectares in Panchagarh, over two lakh metric tons on 96,000 hectares in Thakurgaon, 4,86,200 metric tons on 2,17,000 hectares in Dinajpur and 3,37,800 metric tons of paddy on 1,46,800

hectares of land in Rangpur district.

The sources mentioned that the production target of Ushi variety was fixed at 2.60 metric tons per hectare while 1.40 metric tons of paddy per hectare of land was fixed for local variety.

The BAED and BADC will provide the farmers with agrinputs, it was learnt.

The farmers have become disappointed following the abnormal fall in paddy prices during previous year, said an expert.

Budget announced

Zila Parishad, Natore announced Taka 1,76,41,850 annual budget for the fiscal 1993-94 recently.

Makhon Lal Majumdar of Natore Zila Parishad, while announcing the budget in the conference room of the parishad,

said that government will provide Taka 77,25,799 as development grant and Taka 30,00,000 as special grant for repairing and reconstructing the roads eroded during flood in the districts. The Zila Parishad will earn about Taka 45,00,000 as DC tax.

He further disclosed that Taka 22,00,000 will be spent for constructing a super market in the district sadar. The authority will also spend Taka 6,90,000 for afforestation and pisciculture development.

The authority is expected to introduce and extend the mass education programme at a cost of Taka 1,80,000.

Taka 5,44,000 is expected to be earned from Natore Town Hall and the official rest house.

A total of Taka 1,75,67,841 has been estimated as possible expenses. This leaves over 74,000 taka in surplus as calculated.

Punishment indeed!

MADARIPUR, July 18: A man was fined Tk 10,000 for stealing 100 gram of 'Muri', a kind of food made by parching rice on hot sand, from a grocery at Krokchar village in Shibchar thana of the district, reports UNB.

Abul Hawlader Miah of the village took away the 'muri' from the shop of one Hossain Bepary at Krokchar haat without informing him.

Later Hossain called for an arbitration and the village headman, after examining the witnesses and evidences, found Hawlader guilty and fined him Tk 10,000 for committing theft on July 10, local people said.

Notes from Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 18: One Abdul Aziz (32) of village Nimachara under Tarash thana was run over by a Bogra bound speeding truck at Dhargana road under Raiganj thana on Dhaka-Bogra Highway recently and died on the spot.

The driver managed to flee with the killer truck. A case was lodged with Raiganj police in this connection. The body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Minor boy drowned Abul Hossain (8) son of Hossain Ali of Malshapara at Sirajganj town drowned in a pond recently.

Abul Hossain while taking bath in the pond fell in deep water. Later, his floated body was recovered.

Gamblers assault policemen Kasimuddin and Saidur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge and a constable of Belkuchi thana were attacked by the gamblers recently.

The OC however, managed to flee but the constable sustained injury.

The policemen when raided two separate gambler's dens one at Saratia under Sadar thana and the other at Randhunbari under Belkuchi thana, the gamblers chased them and snatched away one of their fellow gamblers and gambling materials.

Later, local people rescued the constable. A case was lodged with Belkuchi police in this connection.

Headmaster sacked Sushil Kumar Ghosh, Headmaster of Lahiri Mohanpur Girls' High School under Ullapara thana was terminated from service for alleged irregularities and misappropriation of school fund.

Earlier, since September '91 all government grants for the school were stopped since September '91. Later, the managing committee of the school terminated the headmaster.

Open sale of Indian insecticides

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, July 18: Indian insecticides are being sold openly in different markets of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts.

The smuggled Indian insecticides like, theodin, theonel, hengidel, and vidol which are harmful to animal, fish, crops, frog, pests and insects, destroy the fertility of land.

The agricultural experts said that extensive use of such chemicals have been destroying soil fertility and polluting environment which will seriously affect ecological balance, fish and crop output.

The local cultivators informed this correspondent that most of the local insecticides in the markets are adulterated, ineffective as well as expensive. As a result, they are compelled to use smuggled Indian insecticides.

On the other hand, the unscrupulous traders are selling local insecticides at an exorbitant price to patronise smuggled Indian insecticides.

Passengers harassed

Passengers and traders are being harassed and charged exorbitant rates by the leaseholders at ferry ghats in the district, it is alleged by the local leaders.

They said the leaseholders had been demanding much higher than the fixed rate of entry fee.

But the ferry ghats have been left without maintenance

and have no facilities like waiting sheds and lights causing inconvenience to the passengers. Local leaders have demanded to take necessary steps to stop harassment, improve ferry services and compel the leaseholders to abide by the terms and conditions.

Bidis sold without bandrolls

Bidis are being sold in the haats and bazars of the district without bandrolls to evade duty causing a huge revenue loss to the government.

Many bidi factory owners are involved in this malpractice in collaboration with the local Customs and Excise Department officials. In many cases, bidis are being sold with used bandrolls collected from the retailers to deceive the government.

Children suffer from malnutrition

Hundreds of children in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts have been suffering from malnutrition, glaucoma and jaundice for want of proper treatment.

Besides, 60 per cent children of the two districts have been suffering from skin and intestinal diseases.

According to local physicians, children are deprived of necessary vitamins as the caloric value of foodstuff they take is far from satisfactory.

Patriotic people urged to rise against smugglers

BRAHMANBARIA, July 18: A discussion meeting on "Checking Border-belt Crime" was held here at Islampur High School premises in Sadar thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by three police stations of the district, it was presided over by Mizanul Islam, Chairman of Budhanti union parishad. Among others, the meeting was addressed by Chowdhury Mohammad Ali, Officer-in-Charge of Sadar police station; Niaz Mohammad, OC of Madharpur police station; Sheikh Sikander Ali, OC of Nasiragar police station.

The speakers called upon the members of the public to cooperate with the law enforcing agencies to check crimes in the border areas and nab the pirates.

They said without people's cooperation anti-social activities can not be rooted out from the society adding that smuggling has been eating up the vitals of

the country's economy. They also urged the patriotic people to rise against the smugglers.

Local elite and political leaders also attended the meeting.

Erosion takes serious turn

Erosion of the mighty Meghna in Nabinagar thana of the district took serious-turn due to onrush of flood water from the upper region of Sylhet.

About 150 families were rendered homeless on account of erosion in Chitri, Darlapang and Char Lapang villages in the last one week.

While talking to UNB, Golam Kibria Golap, UP Chairman of the area, said the affected people are passing their days in great hardship under the open sky.

He urged the concerned authority to supply necessary food and medicines to the victims and sanction grants for their early rehabilitation.

40 injured in clashes over land dispute

SATKHIRA, July 18: At least 40 people were injured, 10 seriously, in two separate land disputes at Bandakati and Sota in Kaliganj thana on Friday, reports UNB.

The seriously injured were admitted to the Kaliganj and Shyamnagar Hospitals where the condition of Swapon, Milon, Rafiqul, Shaiful, Lutfor and Anjad were stated to be critical.

Witnesses and police said the disputes ensued over the possession of two plots of land where the rival groups attacked each other with lethal weapons.

Two cases were filed with Kaliganj and Shyamnagar police but none was arrested so far. Bangladesh Rifles seized

smuggled Indian goods worth about four lakh taka from a house in Kaliganj thana on Friday.

Following a tip off, BDR jawans of Nilidomar Battalion raided the house of Rafiqul Wazed of Barasimla village in the evening and recovered Indian saree and other clothings.

The seized goods were deposited with local customs godowns and a case was filed with the police.

Local people said smuggling of Indian goods is rampant in the area and some influential people are patronising the smugglers for their selfish end.

360 feet long bridge opens

CHITTAGONG, July 18: The 360 feet long and 12 feet wide Barkal bridge connecting Chandanaish and Anwara thanas of south Chittagong is now open to traffic, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad formally opened the bridge Thursday. The three span steel bridge on permanent concrete structure has been constructed at a cost of taka two crore 60 lakh in less than a year to fulfil a long-awaited local demand, an official handout said.

The bridge will immensely benefit the people of three thanas of southern Chittagong-Chandanaish, Anwara and Satkania.

Speaking on the occasion the Communications Minister said development, construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation works done by the democratic government in communications sector in a span of little over two years had surpassed the total bulk of that of the autocratic government.

Oli Ahmad said the present government could read the minds of the people better than any of the previous governments. "We do not know how to betray with the interests of the masses," he added and went on saying "we were with them, we

are with them and we will be with them."

Another report says: Jamaat-e-Islami leaders said in Chittagong Friday that their party would continue to strive for establishing laws of Allah and the rule of honest people in the country.

Without establishing rule of honest people in the country poverty of common people cannot be removed, they said.

Addressing a big rally at the northern gate of Shahi Jama Masjid at Andarkilla here, Jamaat assistant general secretary, Makkul Ahmad and central committee member Maulana Muhammad Hussain said, Jamaat stands for a welfare state and as such its movements to achieve objectives are carried on peacefully.

The rally held under the chairmanship of city Jamaat-e-Islami Amr Maulana Abu Taher was part of Jamaat's shukrana dibosh programme observed Friday on the release from detention of its leader Prof Gulam Azam. Local leaders of the party Absaruddin Chowdhury, Prof Mofizur Rahman and Badrul Alam, among others, also addressed the rally.

A big procession was brought out after the rally, which passed through main city roads.



JHENIDAH: Kaliganj police arrested the six dacoits from a night coach near Barobazar recently. Police also recovered huge quantities of arms and ammunition from their possession. — Star photo