

District roundup

MAJDEE COURT

'Adarsha Grams' in pitiable condition

Sept 10: Two 'Adarsha Grams' (ideal village) of Companyganj thana set up during 1984-85 are in a pitiable condition due to non-implementation of the government programmes, says UNB.

The government established the Adarsha Grams to rehabilitate the landless and distressed people and undertook several schemes to make them self-reliant. But so long they were provided with dwelling houses only.

It may be mentioned here that 200 families in Baradhali and 100 families in Gangchil ideal villages are yet to get two acres of land which was allotted to each of the families for agricultural cultivation, pisciculture, poultry etc. in order to make them self-reliant.

Meanwhile, the ideal villages have been badly affected by heavy downpour during the last one month disrupting the communication system and paralysing the normal life.

It is learnt that adult literacy, family planning, tree planting and income generating programmes are yet to start in the villages.

RAJSHAHI

Work on modern hatchery progressing fast

Sept 10: Work on a modern hatchery on fifty acres of land at Parbatipur at a cost of Taka fifteen crore is progressing fast, reports BSS.

An official source said that the project financed by the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) under north west fisheries development programme will be completed next year.

The main objective of the project will be to supply quality fingerlings.

Fisheries department has released two hundred metric tons of fish fry in Haldi and Hina beels in greater Rajshahi district during the last two months.

The source said that under the third fisheries development programme the government will spend Taka two hundred crore in northern region for increasing fish production.

CHITTAGONG

Huge quantity of hilsha rotting for want of storage

Sept 10: A huge quantity of hilsha fish are being rotten at the coastal belts in Sitakundu thana, some 30 km off the city, due to lack of storage and marketing facilities, reports UNB.

It is learnt that favourable weather and heavy rainfall have enabled the fishermen to catch huge number of hilsha fish during the current season.

However, due to lack of storage facilities a huge quantity of the catch have already rotten and became unfit for human consumption. Moreover, in the absence of marketing facilities the fishermen are deprived of fair prices of the fish.

Hilsha is learnt to be selling between Taka 400 and 500 per maund at the coastal belts of Sitakundu while it is scarce in the city where the fish is being sold between Taka 60 and 70 per kg.

A local UP Chairman, Mahiuddin Ahmed, said the fishermen are sure to incur a loss of Taka one crore within next few days if cold storages and ice factories are not set up here on an emergency basis to protect the catch from being rotten.

MYMENSINGH

30 projects completed under town uplift programme

Sept 10: Mymensingh pourashava completed works on thirty projects under secondary town infrastructural development programme during the last financial year, reports BSS.

Official source said that the project cost the pourashava about Taka two crore which is a part of Taka twenty three crore allocated for the municipality under a five year plan.

The projects included reconstruction of roads and drains, development of slums, Natun Bazar and Masua Bazar, purchase of land and street lighting.

Official sources said that a sum of over Taka four crore would be spent for the development of Mymensingh pourashava during the current year.

GAIBANDHA

Youth killed in tragic train accident

Sept 10: A youth was killed under the wheels of a running train when he fell down from its rooftop on Monday near Gaibandha Railway Station.

The victim was identified as Azizul Haque (17) of village Dhopadanga in Sundarganj thana. His hands and legs were cut off by the train.

According to police, Azizul met the tragic end of life when he was hit by the extended portion of the shed of the Railway Station in the morning.

COX'S BAZAR

Educationist dead

Sept 10: Noted educationist Principal SAM Shamsul Huda Chowdhury died of prolonged illness in the early hours of Monday last, family sources said here Wednesday. He was 73, reports BSS.

Late Chowdhury left behind his wife, seven sons, five daughters, large number of relatives, students and well-wishers to mourn his death.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of late Chowdhury was held at the public hall maidan after Jogh prayer Tuesday and he was buried at Bodarmokam graveyard at Cox's Bazar.

A founder principal of Cox's Bazar college, Cox's Bazar Law College and former chairman of Cox's Bazar municipality, late Shamsul Huda Chowdhury was associated with a large number of socio-cultural literary organisations.

Leaders of different organisations in separate statements condoled the death of Shamsul Huda Chowdhury that included Cox's Bazar press club, district bar association, Awami League, BNP and Uddichi and Chakaria samity in Chittagong.

RAJBARI

Workshop on sanitation, pure water

Sept 10: A one-day regional workshop, organised by NGOs Forum, on pure water and sanitation facilities was held at the local Shilpakala Academy, reports UNB.

The workshop aimed at extending cooperation for improvement of health-care facilities to the rural people was held on Aug 30.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of the district Abu Nasir Ahmed attended it as chief guest while Director of Karmajibi Kalyan Sangstha Fakir Abdur Jabbar presided.

It was addressed, among others, by Abdul Karim, Suresh Chandra Hawlader, Azharul Islam, Arun Kumar Shah, Subhash Singh, President of the local Press Club ATM Rafiq Uddin and president of the Sangbadik Samity Mohammad Sanaulah.

The speakers stressed the need for better coordination among government, non-government and concerned sector agencies to implement the uplift programmes.

A total of 30 representatives from 23 different agencies of five districts in greater Faridpur participated in the workshop.

TANGAIL

Tk 35 lakh easy term loans for poor

Sept 10: Social welfare department, Tangail has taken up a programme to distribute an easy-term loan worth Taka thirty-five lakh among the poor people of six thanas of the district in this financial year, reports BSS.

Official source said that the loan would be distributed to make them self-reliant.

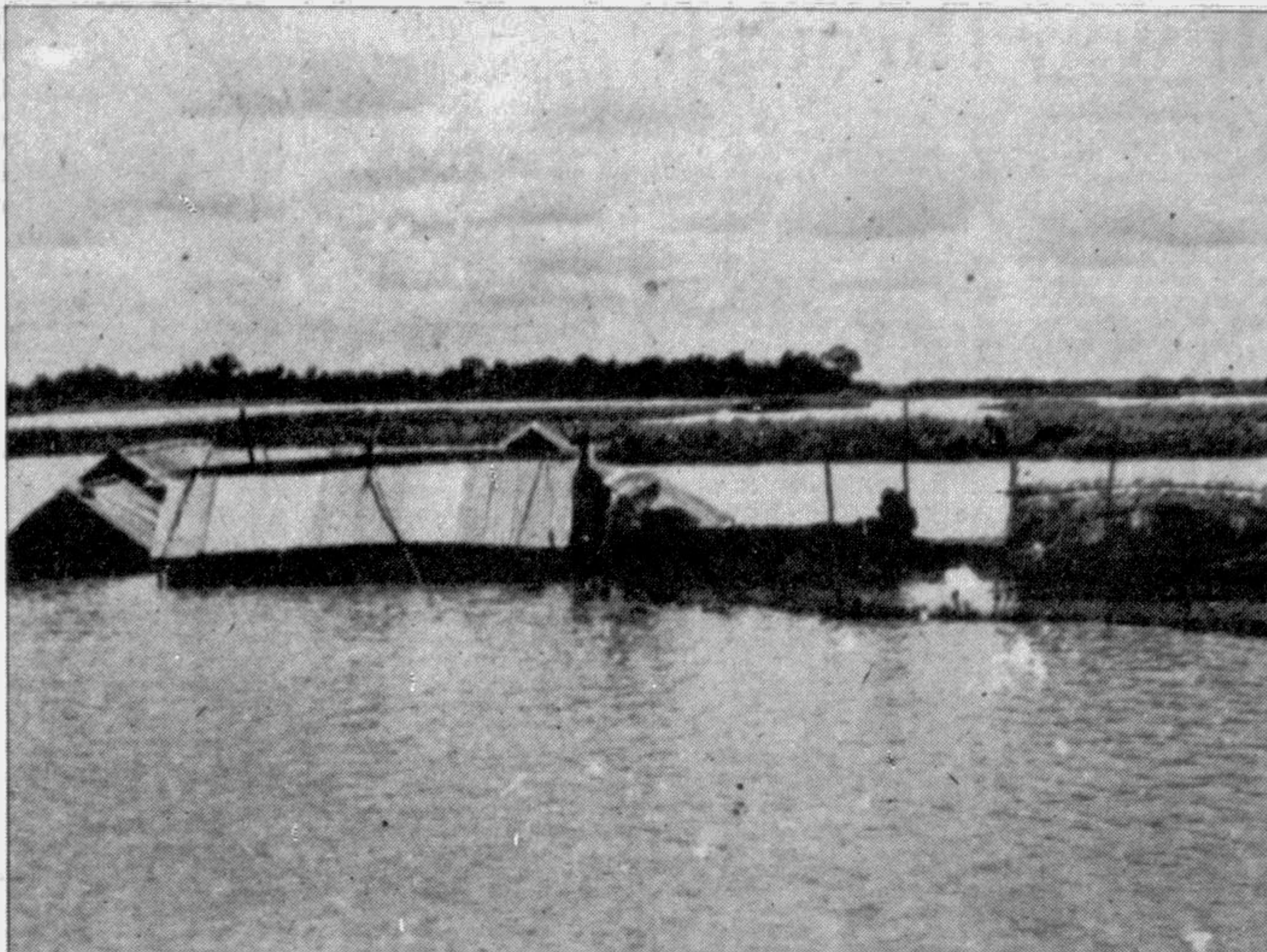
The thanas to be covered are Kalihati, Bhupur, Shakhipur, Ghatail, Madhupur and Ghazipur.

KHULNA

Seminar on low cost solar mapping

Sept 10: A seminar on low cost solar mapping over large geographical area was held here recently under auspices of Khulna Centre of the Engineers' Institution of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

It was presided over by the President of Khulna Centre of the Engineers' Institution and Director of BIT, Khulna. The key note paper on the subject was presented by Professor Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam of BIT, Khulna.



SIRAJGANJ: A flood affected house at village Chatiantali in sadar thana.

— Star photo

Tk 300cr project to boost agricultural production

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 10: The work on an ambitious project to increase the agricultural production through improved irrigation system and management has been started in six districts of the north-eastern region of the country.

The districts are: Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Netrakona and Kishoreganj.

The 300-crore Taka project 'North-East Minor Irrigation Project' is being financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Department of Agriculture Extension, Local Government Engineering Department (LOED) and Bangladesh Bank have been entrusted with the task of execution of the project.

Under the project, special loans will be arranged for improvement of the small irrigation systems. Power tillers and irrigation equipment would be supplied to the farmers on loan.

These would be collected from the traders. The traders of

these agricultural inputs will also be provided with loans.

With a view to assessing the underground water position in different thanas of the project area, a scheme, 'Ground Water Exploration Programme' has also been taken up. To execute the scheme, test boring of a total of 1000 Deep Set Tubewells will be done in the selected areas of 25 thanas in the said district.

In total, 200 demonstration plots with an area of 10 acres each would be set up in selected areas. The purpose of setting up of these demonstration plots is to teach the rural farmers about the improved irrigation management system and crop diversification. Preliminarily, inputs for these demonstration plots would be supplied free of cost.

Under the programme, yearly trade fair of the agricultural machineries of both the local and imported ones will be arranged, with a view to acquainting the farmers about

these machineries.

The programme also includes improvement of the rural 'infrastructure' and 'communication system'. The Local Government Engineering Department (LOED) had been entrusted with the task of developing the rural roads and feeder roads connecting the growth centres in the remote areas with a view to ensuring the farmers of agricultural products.

The LOED will construct 40 per cent of the B-type feeder roads and 60 per cent of the rural roads in six districts under the project. The total length of the roads, culverts and bridges would stand at 6,000 metres.

Initial works on the project, like selection of the sites for demonstration plots, test boring of shallow tubewells and infrastructure have already been started, informed an official source.

The whole project is expected to be completed within a period of six years, the source added.

No-confidence move against UP chairman

GAIBANDHA, Sept 10: Seven members of the Gobindaganj Union Parishad adopted a no-confidence motion against the sitting Chairman for his alleged misappropriation of government fund and abuse of power, reports UNB.

They submitted a petition to the Deputy Commissioner of the district on last Monday urging immediate execution of the no-confidence adopted by them. The members alleged that the sitting UP Chairman Hafizur Rahman misappropriated government and UP relief funds and misused his official power.

The DC, however, assured them of taking necessary actions after proper investigation regarding the alleged corruption charges filed against the chairman.

RU hall raided, no arms found

RAJSHAHI, Sept 10: A contingent of police led by Assistant Commissioner of RMP Ejaz Ahmed conducted a special raid on Suhrawardi Hall of Rajshahi University on Saturday night, reports UNB.

No arms and ammunition were, however, found in the hall.

Meanwhile, classes of the university were suspended due to a work abstention, called by the Federation of the University Teachers Associations, on Sunday.

But all examinations, which remained beyond the purview of the work-stoppage programme, were duly held.

Another message adds: A 10-day art exhibition began at the gallery of Rajshahi Art College on Sunday.

Prof Hasan Azizul Haque inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. He said the artists are the carriers of socio-political and cultural heritage of any country.

He called upon them to depict the real life and culture of the common people and the society as well through their thoughts and works.

About 238 items of fine arts students of the college were on display at the show.

Padma, Jamuna erosion renders hundreds homeless

MANIKGANJ, Sept 10: The erosion of the river Padma and Jamuna took a serious turn tendering 85,000 people homeless during the last two days, reports UNB.

Ferry and launch services between Aricha and Nagarbari and Daulatdia are being hampered due to the strong current in the river Padma, BIWTC officials said.

Daulatpur thana officials said about 200 dwelling houses in Bachamara, Bagutia, Gupinathpur and Charkatari unions were washed away in the river Padma rendering over 400 families homeless while some 180 dwelling houses in Azampur, Boyra, Ramkrishnapur unions of Harirampur thana were devoured by the river Padma affecting 400 families.

In Shibhalaya thana some 105 houses in Arora, Teuta and Shibhalaya unions were washed away rendering 315 families homeless.

Meanwhile, overall flood situation in the district has improved with the recession of water level in the rivers Padma and Jamuna.

The Jamuna at Aricha ghat is flowing 13 cm below the danger level, official sources said.

Mini industrial zone at Mongla soon

KHULNA, Sept 10: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman visited the proposed site for the establishment of industries under joint collaboration between private enterprises of Bangladesh and the USA adjacent to Mongla Port on Tuesday, reports BSS.

During the visit the Foreign Minister was accompanied by the members of site selection committee of the Investment Board under Prime Minister's Secretariat. The committee members included Khademul Islam, Joint Secretary Ministry of Energy, Tofail Ahmed Choudhury, Joint Secretary Ministry of Shipping, representatives of concerned companies, chairman of Mongla Port Authority Md Rezwanul Haque, Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat District Fazlur Rahman Khan, and president of Bagerhat District BNP Barrister Kazi A T Monwaruddin were present on the occasion.

It may be mentioned here that about Taka six thousand crore will be invested for setting up of this mini industrial zone consisting of eight units of different types of industries for which employment opportunities of about three lakh seventy-five thousand persons will be generated when fully established. This mini industrial zone is expected to earn an amount of about fifty crore US dollar per year through exporting the production from these industries.

Another BSS report says: Secretary, Ministry of Education Mohammad Ershadul Huq called upon the people of all walks of life to use education as main weapons for eradicating poverty from our society.

The education secretary was speaking at a seminar on 'eradication of poverty and education' held on Monday at the Khulna officers club auditorium.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Kazi Reasul Haque, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Vice Chancellor of Khulna University Professor Dr Golam Ali Fakir, Khulna, Divisional Commissioner, Abdul Muktedir Chowdhury, Maleka Begum of Khulna Coronation Government Girls High School, President and Vice-President of Khulna District Teachers Association Narayan Chandra Dey and Abdur Rashid.

The education secretary said that education is the main prerequisite for any development. Our teaching community and the guardians have to jointly play a vital role, he said.

PDB realises Tk 22 lakh from Patuakhali, Barguna

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 10: Power Development Board (PDB), transmission division in Patuakhali has realised more than 22.20 lakh taka from four thanas of the district.

A correspondent from Patuakhali informed that 1.60 lakh taka has been realised so far from Patuakhali sadar, about 5.36 lakh taka from Golaichipa thana, more than 6.50 lakh taka from Khepupara thana and about 8.70 lakh taka from Baufal thana of the district during the last fiscal year.

A huge amount of outstanding electric bills are still unrecalled. In Patuakhali sadar thana the amount stands at 1.06 crore taka, 34.50 lakh taka in Khepupara thana and about 23 lakh taka in Baufal thana of the district.

A correspondent from Borguna adds that realisation of electric bills in two thanas, sadar and Betagi, stands at 12.25 lakh taka and 5.42 lakh taka respectively while out-

standing bills in these two thanas areas are 21.50 lakh taka and 14.83 lakh taka respectively.

It is reported that the target of collection of outstanding electricity bills was Taka 3.2 crore in Patuakhali district during last financial year. PDB authority snapped at least 255 power connections during the same period to realise the outstanding bills.

Canal re-excavation, excavation works

A correspondent from Peropur informed that 6.25 hundred metric tons of wheat was sanctioned for excavation and re-excavation of 24 canals in six thanas of Peropur district.

Out of the total works on four canals in sadar thana, three in Nesarabad, three in Kawkhali, four in Nazirpur and four in Mathbaria thana have already been completed during last financial year.



RANGPUR: Mir Anisul Haque, Commissioner, Rangpur district Scouts is speaking at the concluding function of the 3-day-long sanitation workshop held at the B.Ed. College campus under the joint initiative of UNICEF, PHED and Bangladesh Scouts recently.

— Star photo

Massive afforestation plan in N. Bengal

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 10: The forest department has undertaken an elaborate afforestation programme on 1260 hectares of land in the North Bengal region during the current financial year, official sources disclosed.

Under this programme, agricultural garden, fire-wood garden and road side gardens will be set up.

The sources said, a total of 660 hectares of land will be brought under fire-wood gardening in Rajshahi (125 hectares), Natore (385 hectares) and Dinajpur (150 hectares).

Two hundred hectares of land will be brought under agricultural forest gardening. The break-up of the programme is as follows: 40 hectares in Rajshahi, 130 hectares in Dinajpur and 30 hectares in Rangpur.

The road side gardening programme will cover an area of 400 hectares of land. Out of the total area, 300 hectares of land alone will be covered in Rajshahi and one hundred hectares in Bogra.

Besides, the forest department has also undertaken a massive programme to grow trees along one thousand 718 kilometres of highways under Roads and Highways Department. This programme will be implemented in greater Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur and in Dinajpur districts.

This programme also includes along the length of railway tracts in Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna, Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

For implementing the programme successfully, the Forest Department has already disbursed saplings worth Taka one crore 12 lakh, the sources said.



GAZIPUR: The local artistes are rendering songs at a function arranged here on the 17th death anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

— Star photo