

# Over six lakh people suffer No effective plan to halt growth of mosquitoes

From Our Correspondent

**NARAYANGANJ:** Mosquito menace has taken a serious turn in the district affecting more than six lakh inhabitants of the main town.  
It is alleged that almost all the main drainage pipelines of the town area have remained blocked since a long period giving rise to accumulation of dirty stagnant waste in open drains in the city road sides.  
Such stagnation of waste obviously encourage mosquito breeding and it has also proved to be an ideal environment for hatching of mosquito eggs.

year the municipal authority allocated Taka one lakh to prevent growth and to kill mosquitoes. However, this programme has not been started yet which was supposed to start in November last.  
According to municipal officials, this delay in operating the programme is mainly due to late arrival of pesticides, once again, and time taken for laboratory test results.  
So, mosquito control in the town area has been suffering from serious set backs further aggravating the situation.

effective, says one official, but timely spraying can halt growth of mosquito youngs consequently, resulting in efficient control of the growth of mosquitoes.  
A mosquito has a very short life span — only 30 days. They live 15 days as larvae, the young stage and the rest of the 15 days as adult, the active stage.  
Mosquitoes can be destroyed once measures to kill them is carried out efficiently. This process can not be carried out alone by the municipal authority.



Plenty of water hyacinths, one of the breeding grounds of mosquitoes, lie in the middle of a residential area in the town.

Other ponds, ditches and similar water bodies in the town areas are also said to be in similar condition which are often considered as garbage house by local inhabitants. However, most of these water bodies are occupied by water hyacinths which are also considered to be a favourite home of mosquitoes.  
Altogether, mosquito menace has increased incredibly, consequently raising the pains of the victims.  
To destroy or kill the mosquitoes, dry season of the year is the best time period, namely from November to February, according to experts.  
Last year, the municipal authority failed to initiate timely mosquito control programme due to delayed arrival of insecticides resulting in ineffective insect control system, according to a municipal official.  
During this fiscal (93/94)

An anti-mosquito scheme was launched in 1962 till 1980 mainly to destroy mosquitoes in the town areas unfortunately, the scheme had to be stopped due to lack of government fund.  
At present the municipal authority runs this mosquito control operation with, to everyone's astonishment, only one supervisor for the whole town area. No other staff have been assigned to help the supervisor, meaning, there is no one to clean the drains or spray with insecticides.  
It is quite impossible for a single head to work out the mosquito control operation. The management of the municipal authority does not even bother to look into the matter, says one source.  
The municipal authority covers an area of four square miles to spray with the insecticide called Neuclyde-60 which is imported. This chemical is

ity," says one official. "Inhabitants must cooperate to reduce the burden of destroying mosquitoes," the official added.  
The municipal authority in a recent notice to its inhabitants asked to clean water hyacinths from the areas owned by them but the response so far has been quite poor.  
"This type of non-cooperation from inhabitants must be removed or the burden will keep on increasing," the official further added.  
In reaction to this, the authority has filed 40 cases against different inhabitants of the town for not cleaning water hyacinths.  
Meanwhile, the burden of sufferings of the inhabitants keeps increasing everyday. Malaria has attacked hundreds in areas like Amlapara, Masdair, Isdair, Fatullah, Dharmaganj, Kashimpur, Galacheepa and Shahid Nagar.

## No more violence!

**CHITTAGONG, Dec 29:** Leaders of different student organisations in Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Chittagong, have reached an understanding in maintaining academic atmosphere on the campus for completion of the educational activities of the institute without any hindrance, says BSS.  
According to a press release of the institute here Tuesday, the presidents and general secretaries respectively of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir have signed on behalf of these respective organisations in presence of student welfare advisor and director in charge of BIT and they pledged to abide by some directives of the understanding.  
According to directives, the student organisations will not have any linkage with the national politics on the campus.  
The decision to be taken by disciplinary committee of BIT on any issue would be considered final, the press release said.

**Notes from Mymensingh**  
From Our Correspondent  
MYMENSINGH, Dec 29: Association for the Aged Teachers and Officers (AATO) of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will hold a one day conference for the retired and out-going teachers and officers of the university by the first week of February, 1994.  
This was decided in AATO general meeting under the chairmanship of eminent scientist Professor Dr M A Hasnath held at the BAU Animal Husbandry Faculty.  
**USA NIFTAL team visited BAU**  
Tom H Carr, Director, Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF) for International Development, USA called on Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk along with Nitrogen Fixation by Tropical Agricultural Legumes (NIFTAL) delegates at the latter's office.  
Professor Dr Monowar Ahmad, Director, Bangladesh Agricultural University Research System (BAURES), Professor Dr Shamsul Haque, Soil Science Department, Md Zahurul Haque, Executive Director, BIOLINK, Diwan Rashidul Hassan, Director (PRP) and others were present on the occasion.  
**Conference on crop and food**  
Crop Science Society of Bangladesh (CSSB) will hold its second biennial conference at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Campus in last week of January, 1994.  
The conference theme is 'Crop and Food Diversification'. A Symposium on 'technology transfer system in crop and food diversification, will be held on the first day of the conference followed by technical sessions. The symposium key note paper on 'crop diversification and its impact on food nutrition and economy of Bangladesh' will be followed by three papers, namely, FSRD system, its impact on crop and food diversification, Role of on-farm research division (OFRD) on crop and food diversification and DAE — demonstration system and its impact on crop and food diversification.  
**Science conference at BAU**  
A three-day 18th Bangladesh Science Conference — 1994, sponsored by the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) will be held at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh from 9-11 April, 1994.  
The theme of the Conference is 'Science and Technology for Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh'.

## Pragmatic steps towards removing illiteracy

**SRINAGAR (Munshiganj), Dec 29:** Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said, "the government has undertaken a programme for educating the people of the country to achieve progress and prosperity," reports UNB.  
He was speaking as the chief guest at the silver jubilee of Majidpur Dhayhata Kafliuddin Chowdhury Institution here on Friday.

Barrister Sircar said, "the government has allocated maximum fund for education sector in the national budget and taken pragmatic steps towards eradicating illiteracy from the country by the year 2000. He also pointed out that the government will nationalise one school and one college every year in every thana by phases."  
Presided over by chairman of the managing committee of the institution AKM Shamsud-doha Chowdhury, it was also addressed by Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye and Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury.  
Deputy Leader of the House, Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury gave vote of thanks on behalf of the managing committee.

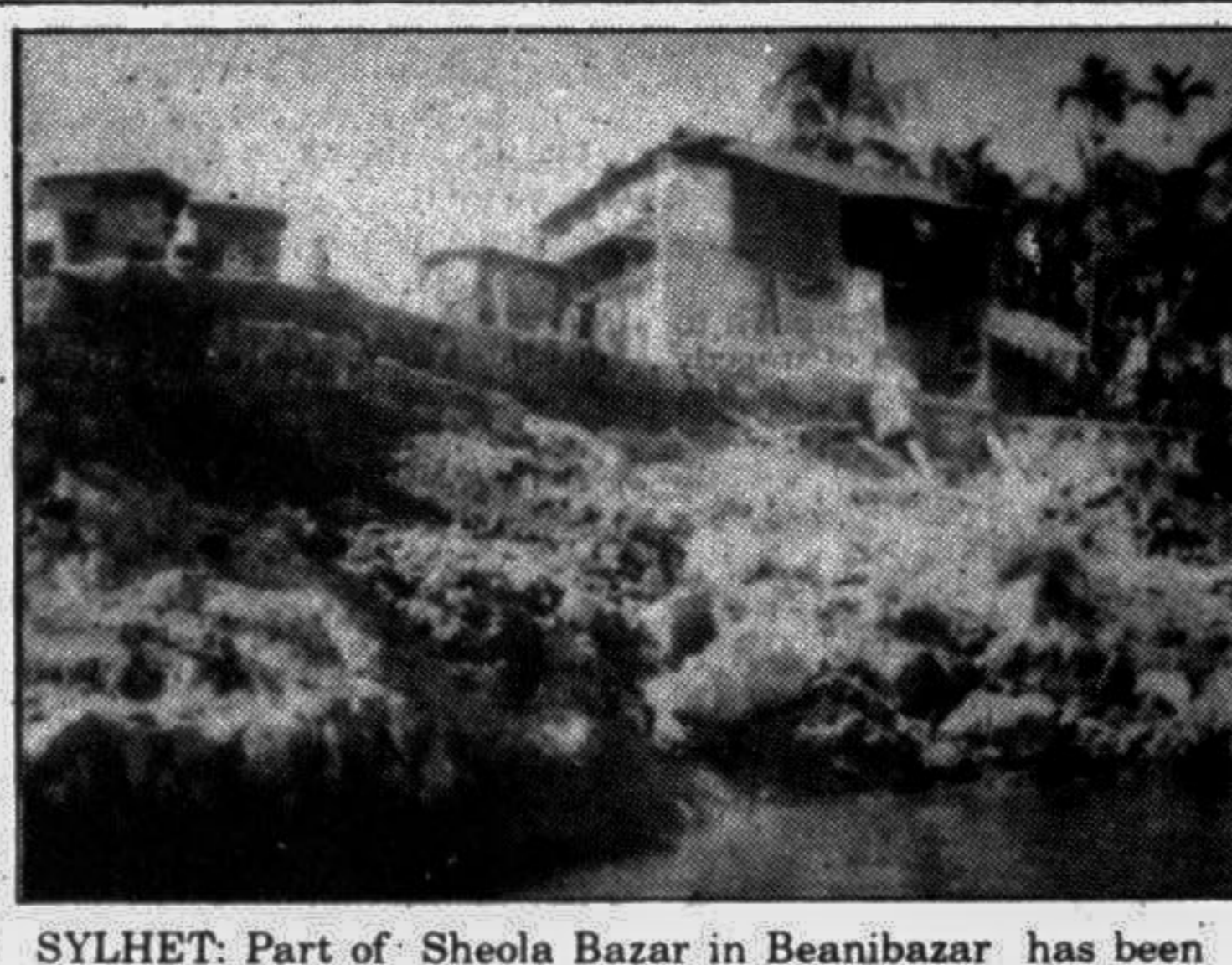
Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar paid glowing tribute to the memory of former minister late Kafliuddin Chowdhury and said, "he made great contribution in the field of education, politics and law."  
Speaking as the special guest Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam said, "late Kafliuddin Chowdhury and fought for the cause of the people against the feudal lords and colonial rules."  
Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye said, "late Kafliuddin Chowdhury will be remembered for ever for his outstanding contribution in politics and education."  
Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said, "education is an imperative for building a happy and prosperous country" he also called upon the people to maintain peaceful atmosphere in the campus for making the students worthy citizens of the country.

He also paid rich tribute to the memory of the late Kafliuddin Chowdhury and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.  
The function was followed by a grand cultural function.

## Steps to rehabilitate beggars needed

**BARGUNA, Dec 29:** Rising number of beggars in the district town in the recent weeks has become a nuisance to the urban people, reports UNB.  
These people are pouring from the rural areas after being affected by natural calamities and some of them have been turning into beggar without getting any job for livelihood.  
On the other hand, infectious diseases are spreading in the town as these beggars are residing in different public places by creating faeces.  
Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take steps to rehabilitate the floating

people to ensure better civic life.  
The alarming rise in the number of pye dogs in the town has become a menace to the town dwellers, local people said.  
These dogs having scabby skins are seen roaming here and there in the town. Pedestrians, school children in particular, are being disturbed by these street dogs.  
The rush of these dogs at the meat and molasses markets are also causing a lot of trouble to buyers and sellers.  
Local people have urged the municipal authorities to take immediate measures to eliminate these dogs from the town.



SYLHET: Part of Sheola Bazar in Beanibazar has been eroded by the river Kushiara. — Star photo

## Want of cotton buyers

**KUSHIYA, Dec 29:** The cotton producers in the district are in great problems for want of buyers of their produces in the local markets, reports UNB.  
Local farmers said, a bumper production of cotton was achieved this year in the district cultivating 18,525 acres of land.  
The main buyers of the locally produced cotton is Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation which import cotton from abroad to meet their demand.  
They alleged that the cotton produced here is good quality and can be compared with the imported one from Pakistan and Egypt. But a section of officials of the corporation are reluctant to purchase the local cotton putting the growers into great difficulties. They demand commission at a rate of Taka four per kgs of cotton, the growers alleged.  
About 2.78 lakh maunds of cotton have been produced in

the district this year which may fetch Taka 16.67 crore.  
The cotton growers have requested the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to purchase their produce.  
Another UNB report says: The fertility of agricultural land in the district is declining rapidly due to rampant use of chemical fertilizers.  
The agri-experts said the use of organic manure including cowdung is essential for keeping the fertility of the soil up to the mark.  
But use of cowdung has decreased drastically due to the non-availability of cowdung as the number of cattlehead has decreased in the district. Moreover, cowdung is mostly being used as fuel in the rural areas.  
Finding no other way out, the farmers are forced to use chemical fertilisers in their 'croplands'.

## District roundup

### RANGPUR

#### Workers protest bid to sell sugar mills

**Dec 29:** A half-day hartal was observed here peacefully Sunday in protest against privatisation of Shayampur Sugar Mills, reports UNB.  
Shayampur Sugar Mills anti-privatisation committee called the hartal protesting the government bid to sell the mills at throw away prices. They demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision for the interest of the workers, employees and sugarcane growers.  
All shops and business centres were closed and schools, colleges and banks in town and other parts of the district did not function.  
All modes of vehicles went off the streets during the hartal hours. Train communication was hampered as sugar bags were thrown on the tracks near the railway station to create barricade by the picketers.

### BARGUNA

#### Illegal abortion increases

**Dec 29:** Rampant illegal abortions in the private clinics of the district has led to rise of immoral activities causing serious concern among the conscious people, says UNB.  
Local people said, most of the private clinics do the abortion of premature pregnancy in the name of menstrual regulation (MR) by taking huge amount of money.  
As a result, immoral activities among the dishonest people, particularly youths, have increased here alarmingly.  
Local leaders have expressed concern as there is no restriction by the law enforcing authorities for illegal abortions in the name of MR.  
They urged the authorities to look into the matter and take stern action against the doctors and clinics who are involved in patrolling such type of immoral activities.

### SHYLHET

#### Seminar on peaceful atmosphere

**Dec 29:** A day-long seminar on peaceful atmosphere and role of management for boosting production was held here at the BMDC auditorium at Boyra in Khulna Sunday under joint auspices of Bangladesh Employers' Association and International Labour Organisation (ILO), Dhaka, says BSS.  
A press release of the employers' association said, speakers at the seminar underscored the need for peaceful atmosphere in industrial undertaking in order to increase production. A number of recommendations were adopted in the seminar to ensure peace and security in the industrial establishments. Two representatives and labour adviser of Bangladesh Employers' Association conducted the seminar. At least thirty senior officials representing various industrial units of Khalishpur industrial belts participated in the seminar.  
The agri-experts said the use of organic manure including cowdung is essential for keeping the fertility of the soil up to the mark.  
But use of cowdung has decreased drastically due to the non-availability of cowdung as the number of cattlehead has decreased in the district. Moreover, cowdung is mostly being used as fuel in the rural areas.  
Finding no other way out, the farmers are forced to use chemical fertilisers in their 'croplands'.

### KUSHIYA

#### Workshop on leadership, management development

**Dec 29:** A five-day training course on Leadership and Management Development began at the Majampur Mahila Samity premises on Sunday, reports UNB.  
Organised by the Regional Cooperative Institute the course was inaugurated by Principal of the Institute Strajul Haque.  
One hundred women leaders and activists from the leading women's cooperative societies of six districts are taking part in the training course.  
The districts are Kushitia, Jhenidah, Pabna, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Sirajganj.

### GAIBANDHA

#### Old man commits suicide

**Dec 29:** An old man of Dakwin Village in sadar thana allegedly committed suicide at Gidari Dakhil Madrasha recently, police said Friday, reports UNB.  
Family sources said, Dr Rajendranath Bramman (58) had long been suffering from stomach pain and committed suicide by hanging himself from the roof of the Madrasha as he could not tolerate the pain.  
A case was filed with the local police.

### FARIDPUR

#### Jasimuddin's 91st birth anniversary to be observed

**Dec 29:** The 91st birth anniversary of Paltai Kabi Jasimuddin will be observed here on January 1 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.  
Different socio-cultural organisations as well as the district administration have chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the day in Gobindapur, the village home of the poet where he was buried.

A week-long village fair, known as 'Jasimela' will be held on the bank of river Kumar in Gobindapur, in the outskirts of the town. Handicrafts exhibition circus, jatra, kabigan, jari gan, laikhela and drama will be organised in the Jasmela. Besides, special cultural and literary functions, including seminars based on the literary works of the late poet have been arranged there.  
A souvenir will be published on the occasion. Jasimuddin parishad, a cultural organisation will confer four gold medals to four eminent personalities of the country for their contributions in different fields of socio-service.

### MAGURA

#### Majid directs for early completion of project work

**Dec 29:** Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Majid-Ul-Haq Tuesday directed the concerned officials to complete the construction and other related works of Magura Water Regulator Ware by two months, says UNB.  
The direction came when the Minister was visiting the under construction regulator over Kumar river at a cost of about Taka 7.5 crore. He also expressed his dissatisfaction at the slow progress of the project.  
The Minister instructed the concerned engineers to avoid lengthy process in allocating funds and dredging chas from Narail to Magura and asked them to immediately take measures to protect the regulator from river erosion.  
On completion, the regulator will facilitate irrigation and preservation of water over 8,000 acres of land in Magura, Narail and partly in Jhenidah districts.  
Later, the Minister in three separate meetings reviewed the progress of food for work, test relief work, canal digging, mass and primary education programmes of the district.

### GOPALGANJ

#### Taka 3cr job opportunities plan for women undertaken

**Dec 29:** The Minister of State for Women Affairs, Sarwari Rahman, said here Tuesday that the government was implementing a Taka three crore project for creating job opportunities for the rural women in twelve thanas of the country, reports BSS.  
The state minister was speaking at a credit disbursement programme for the destitute women at Gopalganj public hall. She distributed Taka one lakh 33 thousand among 39 destitute women of the district.  
Sarwari Rahman said, "the Ministry of Women Affairs had been disbursing credit among the destitute women throughout the country, with a view to involving them in the development activities."  
The state minister said, "the government was considering opening of a women affairs office here soon."

### BAGERHAT

#### Rice export inaugurated at Mongla Port

**Dec 29:** Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali Tuesday inaugurated export of rice through the Mongla sea port, saying, Bangladesh has reached the stage of exporting rice after meeting the previous deficit, says UNB.  
A private firm, Eastern Trading Association, Dhaka, is exporting 120 metric tons of 'pjam' rice to United Kingdom (UK). This is for the first time that rice is being exported through Mongla port.  
The country has already exported a few hundred tons of rice to different countries.  
The Food Minister said, "the government would extend all possible help to private rice exporters. Quality of rice and liaison with foreign countries are prerequisites for increase in rice export," he added.  
Present government is trying to increase production in every sector," Mir Shawkat said.

# Diarrhoea kills 45 lives during one month

**GAIBANDHA, Dec 29:** Diarrhoea has claimed 45 lives during last month in different areas on the district.  
About 300 others were attacked by the disease. Most of the victims are children and women.  
According to reports, the disease has broken out in an epidemic form in many places

under the district. The most affected thanas are sadar, Sundarganj and Gobindaganj.  
It is informed that scarcity of pure drinking water was one of the main problems in those areas.  
Oral saline, cholera vaccine and other drugs necessary to combat the disease are not available at the health complexes.  
The poor people are unable to buy medicine and fall easy prey to the disease. An official of the health department confirmed the death of 25 people and said that adequate measures have been taken and huge quantities of oral saline had already been sent to different thana health complexes.

throughout Gaibandha district are huts and the material mainly used in the construction and repairing of those houses is bamboo. But the price of this main material has gone up sharply.  
The bamboo groves are decreasing day by day due to large-scale use in the brick fields.  
At present the price of a bamboo ranges between Taka 50 and 90. The villages are unable to buy this construction material at an exorbitant price. Consequently, most of them cannot repair their old houses.  
The sufferings of those who depend on bamboo for their livelihood have also multiplied as a result of rise in the price of bamboo.

## One hacked to death

**CHUADANG:** Dec 29: A man was hacked to death by some miscreants at Tangra-mary village in sadar thana on Monday, reports UNB.  
According to the villagers, when the victim, Sirajul Islam (33) tried to arbitrate a dispute between the two groups of local people, some miscreants attacked him with sharp weapons killing him on the spot.

## 12 houses gutted

Another report says: A fire at village Betkapa under Palashbari thana recently gutted 12 property worth about Taka two lakh.  
The fire originated from the house of one Ezmat Ali and engulfed to the adjacent houses. Twelve dwelling houses along with corn in huge quantities and house hold articles reduced to ashes.  
The fire however was brought under control by the fire brigade men from Gaibandha.  
The victims are now living under the open sky.

## Tk 70 crore electricity distribution programme

**FARIDPUR, Dec 29:** Rural Electrification Board (REB) has taken up a massive programme at a cost of about Taka 70 crore to supply electricity in 1946 villages under all the eight thanas of the district, reports UNB.  
This was disclosed by MA Wadud, member REB, at a meeting of forming a Paltai Bidyut Samity in the district on Wednesday.  
The amount was sanctioned by Islamic Development Bank and works are on progress to construct 1,000 KM long new electric line and rehabilitation works for another 200 KM distribution line in the district.



**NARSINGDI:** A voluntary eye and blood donation programme, organised by Lions Club of Dhaka, was recently inaugurated at Khidirpur College premises, Monohardi under the district. About 50 bags of blood were collected.

## Fish diseases spread in epidemic form

**SHARIATPUR, Dec 29:** Fish disease has broken out in an epidemic form in six thanas of the district creating panic among the consumers, reports UNB.  
According to official sources, the disease, identified as ulcerative syndrome, has been spreading in most of the beels, ponds and canals here, affecting fish like kat, shing, mugur, puti, shoal and guzar.  
The fishermen of the areas are hard hit due to the widespread outbreak of the disease.

## Want to bamboo

Construction and repair works of houses in villages are being hampered seriously for want of bamboo. The traditional cottage industry dependent on bamboo is also suffering.  
About 90 per cent of the dwelling and other houses