DOWN TO EARTH

Tree Plantation Drive In City

The burgeoning process of urban- to the task of proper maintenance. isation over the past few years has This aspect needs be kept in view claimed among its victims the cruel with all seriousness by all agencies asdenudation of the city's greenery in sociated with tree plantation so that many areas. In some cases, the de-the whole exercise may not turn out nudation had been so random and to be a one-time ritual. gross that it seemed that we had forgotten the simple truths that trees are the Forest Department has taken a our friends and apart from their aes- big step by adoption of a five year thetic role in urban perspective, they City Afforestation Scheme which is

ecological quality of urban life. the past that although, on the one cities with their neighbourhoods. The hand, trees were planted by one project aims at afforestating the agency, such trees were cut down by metropolitan city in a planned way to another agency in the interest of de-increase tree cover, assisting the development work. This seemed primar velopment of the city's scenic beauty ily due to lack of co-ordination and creating a congenial environment among the agencies concerned.

of the metropolis has been receiving of this project, roads and link roads increasing attention in responsible of the city, parks and recreation quarters. The current year's tree plan-centres, institutions, and offices. tation campaign on a nation-wide factories, residential areas, marginal scale was inaugurated by the Prime and fallow lands, flood protection Minister on 13th June last at embankments, etc. will be planted Rajarampur in Dinajpur district.

also at thana and district levels to ornamental trees will be planted. create awareness of the need for tree tronic media.

plantation programme sometimes Corporation has been associated. seem to enter into a sort of competi- The RAJUK has also been associated tion on how many trees are planted with the Dhaka Divisional with little care given to the need for Committee. proper and maintenance of the newly The Dhaka City Corporation is planted trees. In many cases, the en- another agency responsible for planthusiasm with which plantation drive tation of trees in the city. During the is launched peters out when it comes current financial year, the

BEIJING, July 7: Helicopters flew

relief supplies to residents of inun-

dated villages in southern China as the

central government said Friday that

summer floods have killed nearly

sandbags and bales of straw on river

banks and dikes in eastern Jiangsu

and Anhui provinces, according to

China Central Television's nightly

partly submerged villages in south-

central Hunan, the hardest hit

province, the broadcast showed.

Residents stood on grassy hills above

one swamped town to greet the air-

craft and its cargo of life vests and

people in Hunan since heavy rains

started this spring, nearly half the

1,179 deaths the Civil Affairs Ministry

attributed to flooding in 10

been displaced by the flooding, a mil-

lion of them in Hunan, the ministry

have collapsed and over 1.1 million

hectares (2.7 million acres) of crops

have been completely ruined.

Although the ministry did not specify

what kinds of crops, the affected ar-

Abu Nidal, KGB

masterminded

Rajiv killing!

liceman told a special court today he

had experienced "visions" in which it

was revealed that Palestinian leader

Abu Nidal and the KGB had master-

minded the murder of former premier

lice officer, told the court probing

the May 21, 1991 assassination of Ra-

jiv by a woman suicide bomber in the

southern town of Sriperumbudur that

he did not have any evidence to

party which governs Tamil Nadu

state, where Sriperumbudur is lo-

cated, was also involved in Rajiv's

murder, blamed by the Indian author-

ities on Tamil militants operating in

"visions" in September 1992 which

implicated the former Soviet secret

services and the Palestinian guerilla

BNP would lose

says Golam Azam

chief Golam Azam today said that

there was no alternative to holding

the next general elections under a

lated constitutional provisions for

the party's city unit, the Jamaat chief

said that BNP had created a consti-

tutional crisis by making Parliament

the next general elections were held

under a caretaker government the

verdict of the people would go

Presided over by city Jamaat

chief Advocate Ansaruddin, the con-

ference was also addressed by some

other central and local leaders.

He said it was clear to BNP that if

He said BNP has repeatedly vio-

Addressing 'Rokon' conference of time.

KHULNA, July 7: Jamaat-e-Islami

if polls fair,

He said he started having

Thomas said a regional political

M V Thomas, a former senior po-

Rajiv Gandhi, reports AFP.

backs up the charge.

northern Sri Lanka.

leader in Rajiv's murder.

caretaker government.

clinging to power.

ineffective.

against it.

NEW DELHI, July 7: A retired po-

The government estimated that

eas are prime rice-growing regions.

More than 1.3 million people have

Some 900,000 thousand houses

Flooding has killed some 540

A military helicopter flew over

Soldiers and citizens heaved

1,200 people, reports AP.

news broadcast.

other supplies.

provinces.

By AS M Nurunnabi

Among the agencies concerned, contribute to the maintenance of the already under execution with a total outlay of Tk 547.00 lakh covering the It was deplorable to observe in city of Dhaka along with other main through over-all development of Lately the physical environment amenities. Through implementation

with bushy and ornamental trees in a To give a fillip to the tree planta- planned manner. Roadside and other tion campaign, government has in- open spaces will be planted with timtroduced the Prime Minister's trophy ber trees and the reserved areas will for tree plantation. Holding of dis- be planted with fruit trees. Under cussion takes place in the capital and telephone and electric lines shade and

The scheme has been given such plantation among the people, importance that independent com-Besides, a tree fair was recently held mittees one for each division and one in Dhaka. A high-pitched publicity on at national level have been set up to the importance of trees in our life is ensure smooth implementation of the in progress through the print and elec-project. In the national committee as well as in the committee for Dhaka The agencies associated with the division, the Mayor of the Dhaka City

the total economic loss was 36.6 bil-

arrived at its figures and in some

cases they conflict with those pro-

vided by local governments. The min-

istry lists 31 deaths in Zhejiang

province while a provincial official

place in hilly, isolated areas, compli-

land was in Jiangxi, where 242 people

more than 300,000 people for over 50

control officials in the provincial

capital, Changsha, held meetings to

deal with the disaster, an official at

the Hunan Foreign Affairs Office

dents have been refused permission

to travel to the region for the time

being because it would strain local re-

sources, said the official who de-

southern China every year, causing

widespread flooding. Land develop-

ment and deforestation may be mak-

ing the problem worse in some areas.

killed 1,400 people in five southern

Atlantis returns

to earth

7: The US space shuttle Atlantis re-

turned to earth today at the end of an

historic mission capped by a linkup

with the Russian space station Mir.

end to your historic mission," a mis-

rolled to a halt on the runway.

at a time over the last 15 years.

"Congratulations on your perfect

Russian cosmonauts have rou-

space shuttle returned to earth carry-

ing more crew members than it left

40 hurt in clashes

over reception of

Shamsur Rahman

people were injured when some fun-

damentalist groups tried to foil a re-

ception accorded to eminent Poet

Shamsur Rahman at Press Club here

ised by the Sammilita Sangskritik

Jote, could not be held at Public

Library as the district administration

imposed Section 144 for 24 hours ef-

fective from 1 pm today to avoid

The ban on meeting came be-

cause Sangram Parishad — an alliance

of Jamaat-Shibir, NDP and other fun-

damental groups - also declared to

hold a meeting at the same venue and

tion was created when a Sangram

Parishad procession tried to cross the

tivists of the Sangskritik Jote con-

fronted them and refrained them

one another with lathi, and re-

sponded with bricks and stones.

They also blasted at least 100 crack-

The rival groups began chasing

from entering the reception venue.

press club at 5:30 pm.

ers around the venue.

Witnesses said that a chaos situa-

The supporters and ac-

clash between the rival groups.

However, the reception, organ-

today, reports UNB.

RANGPUR, July 7: At least 40

reports AFP.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, July

By July 13, 1994, heavy rains had

Summer rains and typhoons hit

Beijing-based foreign correspon-

Much of the flooding has taken

Nearly half the unsalvageable crop

In Hunan, high waters stranded

For the second day in a row, flood

said the total was closer to 160.

cating rescue efforts.

have died in the flooding.

hours, the ministry said.

clined to be identified.

It was not clear how the ministry

lion vicin (dlrs 4.4 billion).

Floods kill 1200, destroy

9 lakh houses in China

Corporation has made a provision of Tk 50 lakh in its budget. This provision will be mainly spent, as it is learnt, on re-plantation of trees in all the 10 zones of the Corporation where earlier plantation programmes

some respects failed. The Corporation follows a commendable rule under which 20% of money is deducted from the running bills of contractors entrusted with the work of tree plantation in the city, which is later adjusted on satisfactory completion of their work. Besides, the City Corporation is reported to be playing an active role in the national committee set up under the Forest Department's City Afforestation

The Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakkha (RAJUK) is also associated with planting of trees in the areas under their administration. During the current financial year, a provision of 8 lakh taka has been made in its budget for tree plantation in sector 12 of Uttara along with other on-going plans for tree plantation in Banani, Baridhara, Shyampur (near Postogola), Progoti Sharani and Janapath. Moreover, RAJUK makes a provision of two per cent in every scheme for the purpose of tree plan-

Tree plantation is an activity we can never do to an excess, and the number of saplings for the present can be open-ended. The more relevant question is what proportion of the saplings truly grows into trees. And even if a significant matures, the result is cancelled out by the fact that the forests are being constantly hacked at, and the total acreage under forest is declining. There are, however, some encouraging signs of people in general coming round to loving trees and wanting them more

Over 2000 vehicles still stranded

at Aricha

MANIKGANJ, July 7: The traffic jam at the Aricha ferry ghat further deteriorated as the long queue of vehicles became more longer, reports

More than 2,000 vehicles, including inter-district coaches and trucks, remained stranded at the ghat area stretching over eight kilometres on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Official sources said some 600 passenger coaches and 1,500 trucks remained stranded on both sides of the highway for the last two days.

BIWTC sources here said, the ferries plying on the Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia routes can not cope with the heavy pressure of vehicles reaching at the ghats on both sides of the river following suspension of the Bhuapur-Sirajganj ferry service on May 22.

Manikganj district official said they have intimated the higher authorities about the situation and suggested to suspend the plying of night coaches and trucks to northern districts for the next two days to clear the jam at the Aricha ghat.

Dacoity at luxury coach in Ctg

COX'S BAZAR, July 7: Dacoits looted cash and goods worth about Tk two lakh from a luxury coach in Chokoria thana on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway tonight (Friday) reports UNB.

Eyewitnesses said a band of armed robbers numbering 5, who were travelling in the guise of passenger, swooped on the passengers when the coach reached at Khashiakhali at the slope of a hill at 9 pm.

Khandaker

From Page 1

Hossain went through the draft. Barrister Ashrarul suggested minor sion control official told the returning changes in the draft, he added.

astronauts by radio after Atlantis The draft was finalised Monday afternoon. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia wanted to see the final tinely lived in space for many months draft in the evening at Parliament, Khandaker said. Today marked the first time a

Khandaker said that on Tuesday, after official formalities at the Ministry of Law and the PM's office, he got the reference signed by President Abdur Rahman Biswas. The ministry later sent it to the SC by a special

He declined answer a question or whether the government decision damaged the image of the Speaker who time and again said that the rele vant Article of the Constitution was very clear and would be applicable to

absentee MPs. "That is the way that he (Speaker) has possibly looked at it," Khandaker said, adding "But reading it as a whole there appears that ques-tions of constitutional interpretation and very great public importance are

Jute, textile

From Page1 attended by labour leaders from Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, Jessore, Bhairab and Ghorashal.

The convention urged the authorities to withdraw the closure order on Narsingdi Alishan Jute Mills and Kohinoor Jute Mills served during the 120hour strike.

The convention was addressed by MA Aziz Chisty, Lutfar Rahman, Igbal Majumdar, Sahidullah Chowdhury, Shah Alam, SM Rumi, Anwara Begum, ZM Kamrul Anam, K Alam Belal, Mujibur Rahman, Hedayetul Islam, Bacchu Miah, Mozammel Haq, Abdur Razzaq, Osman Ali, Nur Mohammad, Nasu Miah, KM Serajul Haq, Jainal Abedin and Shamsuddin Ahmed.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a gathering at Mirpur in the city before opening a Free Friday Clinic there. Star photo

Hasina accuses PM

From Page 1 liament inoperative and keeping the one party parliament alive ignoring the people's demand, Hasina said.

She said 147 Opposition MPs were forced to resign from Parliament to protest corruption, misrule and failure of the government and to ensure people's right to vote and food.

"We resigned from Parliament according to Article 67 (2) of the Constitution, but the Speaker violated the constitution by not accepting our resignation letters," Hasina said.

The Speaker also denied fundamental rights and freedom of the Opposition MPs.

Hasina said: "I am accusing the Prime Minister and the Speaker of violating the Constitution."

"We can not share the responsi bility of corruption, incompetence and misrule of the government by sitting in a parliament where we could not discuss the government's corruption, people's problems and solu

Hasina also pointed out the Prime Minister's absence from important sessions of parliament.

The AL chief said that her party has been spearheading an agitation for last one and a half years for a neutral caretaker government to establish voting rights of the people.

"People of the Mirpur areas have a bitter experience about election. They voted for the candidate of the Awami League but the Prime Minister's Secretariat announced the result directly in favour of the BNP through Radio and Television ignoring the Election Commission," she said.

Voters were gunned down after the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) election while several by-elections were rigged under this BNP government, Hasina said adding "So we have started the agitation to consolidate democracy as an institution by holding elections under a caretaker government for at least three terms."

Hasina was apprised of the efforts by local Awami Leaguers for extending their services for the distressed people in Mirpur area through Free-Friday medical service.

Eight doctors, including two lady doctors, will attend patients of 13 Wards of Mirpur and Pallobi thana under this Free-Friday medical service

President of Ward No-2 under Pallabi, Mohammad Hanif presided over the meeting. AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Matiya Chowdhury, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Kamal Ahmed Majumdar also spoke at the function.

MQM leader dies

From Page 1

his life had immediately informed Pakistan President Farooq Leghari and Sindh province Chief Minister Abdullah Shah Questioning the police account

he said: "If Sabzwari was already injured, why wasn't he taken to hospi-Gunmen started shooting in the

Nazimabad and district central areas

of the city and in the eastern suburb of Korangi as news of Sabzwari's death spread. Police said six other people were killed and at least five wounded in sporadic violence elsewhere in the

city, virtually paralysed by a strike

called by the MQM on the Muslim weekend An MOM delegation is expected to start peace talks with the government in Islamabad on Sunday and is expected to press demands for stronger political and economic

rights for Mohalirs.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has previously said the MQM must renounce violence, lay down its guns and hand over wanted militants before its grievances can be discussed.

Police said they had launched relief operations to help civilians in the turbulent eastern suburb of Korangi, where at least 12 people were killed in gun battles between MQM fighters and the security forces on Wednesday and Thursday. The clashes trapped thousands of people in their 'We are distributing food among

the residents of Korangi and trying to restore power and water supplies. deputy superintendent of police Khawaja Nisar told Reuters. The MQM strike was part of a

series of weekly protests it has pledged to stage until the government frees detained party workers and arrests those involved in an alleged gang rape of an MQM activist's sister and the killing of an MQM leader.

PM

From Page 1

Begum Zia said and expressed her optimism that the BNP would be able to make the country self-reliant in all fields, including trade and commerce.

the BNP is not voted to power.

The Prime Minister said the next general election is very vital for the nation and urged BNP leaders and workers to prepare for the election from now and start the election activities in their respective areas.

She said people voted the BNP to power as it fought against all sorts of injustice and repression for nine years. "BNP's politics is aimed at eliminating injustice and improving the condition of commonman."

the BNP is increasing day by day and asked all to utilise the spontaneous popular support in further strengthening the party.

The function was addressed by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, Major (retd) Hafizuddin MP, Shahidul Huq Jamal MP, Sirajul Islam MP, JCD General Secretary Nazimuddin Alam, local leaders Shawkat Ali, Rasheduddin, Faruq Hossain and Imtiaz Hossain Pannu.

Three union parishad chairmen of Atgharia thana of Pabna district and 13 pro-Awami League Chhatra League leaders of Shawrupkathi thana of Pirojpur district led by central leader Mohammad Selim also joined the BNP at the function.

More than 2000 leaders and workers from different political parties, including the Awami League, the Jatiya Party, the NAP, the Jamaat-e-Islami, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Chhatra League of Baufal thana in Patuakhali district formally joined the BNP. They were led by former upazila chairman Shahidul Islam Talukder.

The Prime Minister told the fresh-«rs that all the development programmes, like construction of the Jamuna Bridge, extraction of coal and hardrock, mass education, food for education, will be discontinued if

In this regard, she reminded that the people-oriented and nation building programmes initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman were closed by the autocratic regime.

Welcoming the freshers, the BNP

chairperson advised them to work with the old party members for ensuring the party's victory in the next Begum Zia said the popularity of

ment in Bangladesh and allow free access of Bangladeshi products to

Line-Vicinight-File

Arab FMs meet in

Bahrain today

Syria are to meet in Bahrain at the weekend to discuss developments in the

Arab-Israeli peace process, the officials Gulf news agency said today. The

minister will also discuss ways to step up cooperation at the meeting on

More Indian investment

in Bangladesh sought

Saturday and Sunday, the Bahraini-based agency said, reports AFP.

The 4th joint Task Force meeting

between Metropolitan Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (MCCI)

Dhaka and Confederation of Indian

Industry (CII) was held yesterday at

the conference room of the

Bangladesh deputy high commission

Manzur Elahi, co-chairman of MCCI-

CII Task Force and Indian side was

headed by Aloke Mookherjee, co-

chairman of CII-MCCI Task Force, an

official handout said in city last

tween Bangladesh and India re-

mained to be the main feature of dis-

in press enclave Pratap Park last

into Urdu daily office, "India-e-

Mashriq, around 2000 hrs and picked

the English daily "Greater Kashmir"

and asked the chief editor to ac-

company them saying that their

the militants abducted associate edi-

tor, Bashir Manzar, and two others,

Manzoor Qazi and Sahfaat Ahmad

Matoo and escaped in a Matador

kidnapped two Americans and two

Britons in Kashmir said the hostages

have not been harmed but did not

discuss their possible release, gov-

The officials did not say how the

Nome 2,250 Indian soldiers and

commandos on Friday searched the

remote area of Kashmir where the

kidnapping took place, and heli-

copters flew over the heavily wooded

leader based in Pakistan on Thursday

appealed to separatists to release

capital of Pakistan-controlled Azad

(free) Kashmir, Jummu and Kashmir

Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman

Amanullah Khan accused India of cre-

ating conditions where the militants

had to resort to such activities to

American and British diplomats

today sought the help of pro-sepa-

ratist groups to free the two Ameri-

cans and two Britons taken hostage

by Muslim separatists demanding the

Replying to a question Khadem

A real estate developer, on condi-

said RAJUK has no plan to permit

construction buildings on such plots

tion of anonymity, however said that

prior to filling up of a site, construc-

tion firms first 'obtain' unofficial

green signal from the RAJUK. Real es-

tates firms Niketon, Mahanagar, and

Nirman are elevating vast areas of

Hatir Jheel the water reservoir of Tej-

gaon and Rampura areas and are

selling plots. Fulleshwari, another real

state firm is 'developing' some 200

bighas of land in the Hatir Jheel. A

vast low-lying area near Rampura

eventually create problems for other

areas also, commented a senior plan-

(FAP) Dhaka city is being surrounded

completed and the rest will be com-

retention places in the city, Kallayan-

pur, Goranchatbari and the Dholai

Khal. "The idea behind this now that

from different parts of the city could

be pumped out to check flooding

inside the embankment, said an offi-

cial of the WASA. But raising of the

peripheral areas will affect the whole

water accumulated in these areas

The FAP provides for three water

Earth-filling of these areas will

Under the Flood Action Plan

bridge is also being filled up.

ner of the DMDP.

pleted soon.

thing, he said.

release of their jailed comrades.

Meanwhile, a Kashmiri militant

In a statement in Muzaffarabad

AP adds: Meanwhile, rebels who

waiting outside the office.

ernment officials said today

message reached them.

four Western tourists.

achieve their goal.

RAJUK chairman.

in future.

mountains.

When the chief editor resisted.

commander wanted to talk to him.

up the editor. Abdul Rashid Shah.

The gunmen forced their entry

Later, they intruded the office of

evening and abducted four persons.

The huge trade imbalance be-

4 journalists

Bangladesh side was led by Syed

in Calcutta, reports BS8.

MANAMA, July 7: Foreign Ministers from six Gulf Arab states, Egypt and

Indian market to bridge the trade It was agreed in the meeting that CII and MCCI will extend all possible help to interested Indian entrepreneurs to be fully benefitted from the newly created investment

cussion. The Bangladesh side urged

the Indian side to increase invest

opportunities in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh delegation pointed out that in view of the liberalisation investment policy of the government, a new atmosphere for

investment has been created. Both the CII and MCCI agreed to examine the possibility of holding

joint trade fair in India, the handout On a request from Bangladesh

side to waive countervailing duty imposed on Bangladeshi jute carpet, the Indian side assured that the matter would be taken up with appropriate authorities. Both the CII and the MCCI dele-

gation thanked the deputy high commissioner for the excellent arrangement provided for the meeting. Jahangir Saadat, deputy high

commissioner, assured both the delegation that the Bangladesh deputy high commission, Calcutta was ready to extend all possible help to facilitate trade and investment co-operation between Bangladesh and India.

Weavers From Page 1

Grey Fabrics.

They export their products to American markets. About 59 industrial units are op-

erating in this export processing zone which employed 26,000 persons. The authorities have imposed ban on all kinds of trade union activities

inside the CEPZ to attract foreign in-Phoolan demands

From Page 1

along with Sharma.

"Women in this country are not safe any more," Devi charged, referring to Sahni's murder. "If this can happen in New Delhi, then what will be the state of women, in the vil-

Devi said Sharma should be punished despite his status. New Delhi police have set up a special team to track down Sharma, who has been missing since his wife's body was found, and widened the search to Nepal Thursday following reports that he might have fled to the Himalayan

Meanwhile, a court in southern India granted protection from arrest today to a ruling party politician wanted for the murder of his wife.

Madras sessions court Judge M Gopalaswamy granted "anticipatory bail" to fugitive Congress (I) politician Sushil Kumar Sharma in line with a judicial procedure which offers protection against arrest.

The court order preventing Sharma's arrest on murder charges would remain in force for two weeks, it said in a brief dispatch from the

The bail application was submitted by Sharma's lawyer and the politi cian's whereabouts are unknown. Anticipatory bail is generally

granted only if an applicant appears in persons before the court and convinces a judge that his life is in danger of that he is the subject of police ha-

DSE trading Bangladesh Lamps, the prices de-

by a massive embankment. Western clined by more than Tk 100. part of the embankment has been Although a new issue, the Bex-

imco Textiles sold 1 lakh 4,645 shares last week and Beximco Pharma, which had been a volume leader for over a month now, sold 1 lakh 4,400 Among the other volume leaders,

BOC sold 55,380 shares, Ashraf Textiles 53,357, Confidence Cement 45,700, National Polymer 33,170, new entry-Meghna Cement 27,675, Bomhay Dyeing over 25000. Apex Weaving 23,422 and Meghna Shrimp 21,420 and Beximco Fisheries over 21,000.

উপদেষ্টা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রাক্যোগ্যতা নির্ধারণের

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকার কাওরান বাজার এলাকায় ১৫-২২ তলা ভবন নির্মাণ কাজে উপদেষ্টা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রাক্ষোগ্যতা তালিকা তৈরীর জন্য বহুতল বিশিষ্ট ভবনের স্থাপত্য ও অবকাঠামো নকশা তৈরীসহ তদারকের জন্য পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন স্থাপতা ও প্রকৌশলী উপদেষ্টা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে প্রস্তাব আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

কোম্পানীর ব্রোসিভর ও সম্পাদিত কার্য্য বর্ণনাদিসহ প্রস্তাব আগামী >৫- ৭- ৯৫ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় গৃহীত হইবে।

১৪৩/১. নিউ বেইলী রোড (৫ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০ ।

Editor: Mahfuz Anan

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counterpart Benazir Bhutto (2nd L) witness the exchange of documents on agreements to promote bilateral investments and to share technological expertise at Mahathir's office in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, - AFP photo

Flood situation worsens sufferings of the people of remote Unofficial sources said 46 out of

turn yesterday. Railway ferry service between Bahadurabad and Teestamukh ghat has been threatened by rise in water level of river

UNB adds from Sirajganj: Authorities last night cautioned that the town protection embankment may be affected any time because of strong current in the Jamuna river which is flowing above the danger

The flood situation in the district deteriorated with the Jamuna flowing 46 cm above its danger level. Three pontoons at the Sirajganj ferry ghat were submerged by waters. The district Water Development Board said the embankment may be

breached at different points due to the strong current of the river. It used loudspeakers asking people not to ply heavy vehicles like truck-bus on the embankment and seeking their cooperation in protecting the town. The district Control room sources said all educational institutions of 22

flood affected unions of Sadar,

Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowhali and

Sahajadpur thanas were shut down

from yesterday due to deterioration of the flood situation. Chairman of Tekoni and Natuarpara unions of Kazipur thana told UNB that severe scarcity of fuel, food and medicine had added to the

Official sources said more than 100 villages in Kazipur, 17 in Sadar and 15 in Chouhali went under water following continued rise in the water level of the Jamuna.

With this, some 602 villages in 60 unions of all the nine thanas of the district were gripped by flood, affecting at least 3 lakh people.

The district administration yes-

terday rescued 20,000 people and rehabilitated them in flood shelters and on the flood control embankment, but about 3 lakh people were still marooned in the affected areas of Kazipur thana. UNB adds from Sherpur: Flood

waters swept away four people in the district and two others were killed; one in house collapse and another by lighting since Thursday night. According to unofficial sources a couple along with their two sons of Nekgao in Nalitabari thana washed

away by strong current while they were going to a flood centre Thursday Jobed Ali (8) of village Valuka in Zhenaigati thana was killed by lightning while he was fishing amidst rain this noon. Another old woman Sufia Begum (70) of village Dhamnagao of Nakla thana was buried under debris

when her kutcha house collapsed yes-

terday afternoon due to heavy rain.

51 unions in the district were submerged under flood waters. About 2 lakh people have been marooned and standing crops on one

lakh acres were damaged. More than 100 educational institutions in the district were closed down as flood water entered in these school compounds. Thousands of people have taken

shelter on boats, embankments, roads and roof tops of the houses. Road communication with sadar and other five thanas were cut off

flowing inundation of most of the Deputy Commissioner said rescue operation of the marooned people are being hampered due to shortage

BSS adds from Netrakona: Overall flood situation in Netrakona district deteriorated further yesterday following downpour and onrush of water from the garo hills in India which continued for the six consecutive days.

of boats.

More areas of the district town went under water yesterday. Road communication between Netrakona and Durgapur thana sadar has been cut off and railway communication between Purbadhala and Samganj is being threatened, official sources