# News snaps

6th anniversary of 'Free Day' of Dahagram LALMONIRHAT, July 5: The 6th anniversary of much debated 'Free Day' of Dahagram-Angorpota enclave was observed

here on Friday, reports UNB. The people of this enclave were freed from the stranded life after 45 years on this day in 1992 by a tin-bigha corridor. The formal hand over ceremony of the corridor was jointly conducted by the then District Magistrate of Kuchbihar Gopal Krishna and Deputy Commissioner of Lalmonirhat Khalilur Rahman. Since then, the day is being observed every year by the people of the enclave with due enthusiasm. This year the day was observed with elaborate programmes including holding of Milad Mahfil, discussion meeting, sports and cultural function. Presided over by the present chairman of Dahagram Union Shamsul Huda Pradhan, the speakers in the discussion de-manded the full time opening of the corridor instead of existing 6 hours.

#### 2 alleged murderers arrested

TANGAIL, July 5: Police arrested two more youths on Mon-day for their involvement in the murder of two shop employees and looting of Tk 3.50 lakh from Boali area of the town, reports

The arrested Mala and Ripon were sent to Magistrate Court recently and taken to police custody again for interrogation on a five-day remand. Meanwhile, police continued to interrogate four people arrested earlier in connection with the incident. A gang of miscreants entered into the shop of local dealer of Lever Brothers on Friday midnight and chopped to death its two employees — Accountant Rai Mohan Pal, 47, and Account Assistant Narayan Chakraborty. 26, and looted Tk 3.50 lakh in cash. Another employee, Shohrab, who was injured by the miscreants, is undergoing treatment in the district General Hospital.

#### Tk 50 lakh road construction project

RANGAMATI. July 5: The Rangamati unit of Local Government Engineering Directorate has been implementing three projects at a cost of Taka 50 lakh, an official source said, re-

The projects were taken up in the fiscal 1997-98. The projects included road carpeting from Marishya bazar to Karengatali Bazar in Baghaichhari thana at a cost of Taka 20 lakh, Renovation of road from Razasthali thana headquarters to Balipara in Razasthali thana at a cost of Taka 20 lakh and road carpeting from Guiatal to Sonaichhari in Kaukhali thana at a cost of Taka 10 lakh, officials said.

#### Freedom Fighter killed in road mishap

THAKURGAON, July 5: Mamun-al-Rashid, 40, a Freedom Fighter and an employee of the Family Planning Department of Hajipara, Thakurgaon was killed in a road accident on Bogra-Rangpur highway near Shibganj last week, reports BSS.

The deceased was coming from Bogra to Thakurgaon on a motor cycle when a speeding truck hit him near Shibganj. He died on the spot. His body was brought to Thakurgaon and he was buried at the old graveyard. Mamun-al-Rashid, who actively participated in the War of Liberation, leaves behind his parents, wife, three sons, and one daughter.

#### Training workshop for youths

BANDARBAN, July 5: A day long training workshop for the youths was held at the district town hall recently, reports BSS. The training was organised by district youth development department of Bandarban. A total of 65 trainee youths including tribal and non-tribals participated in the workshop. The district local government council chairman Thwaaing Cha Prue Master was present as the chief guest. Bir Bahadur MP and Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer Naoser Ahmed Chowdhury were special guests in the inauguration of the workshop.

#### School construction work progressing

MANIKGANJ, July 5: The construction work of four secondary schools in the district under the scheme of introducing vocational course in non-government secondary school is in full swing, reports BSS.

The work cost Taka 40 lakh. The schools are Saturia Model High School in Saturia thana, Ghior Pilot Girls' High School and Ghior DN High School in Ghior thana and Uthuli Pilot Girls' High School in Shibalaya thana. A two-storied building with two rooms for each school is being constructed by the Facilities Department:

#### Classroom teaching being hampered

NOAKHALI, July 5: Classroom teaching is being hampered adversely in the district as most of the teachers of schools and colleges spend more time in private tuition, reports UNB. It is alleged that the teachers perform their duties halfhearted in the classrooms without providing adequate teaching

to the students. They are earning a lot from private tuition. The science, English and mathematics students are being taught in batches by the teachers before or after the school hours. A college teacher gets Tk 800 to 1500 as honorarium from each student while a school teacher Tk 500 to Tk 1000. Most of the students show interest in private tuition observing the teachers' more attention in it. On the other hand, students belonging to the middle and lower middle class families cannot avail of the opportunity due to poverty.

#### Trucks looted on Comilla-Sylhet highway

COMILLA, July 5: A gang of dacoits looted valuables and cash from six trucks at a place in Muradnagar thana here on Comilla-Sylhet highway recently, reports UNB.

According to police, the gang put barricade on the road and attacked a Brahmanbaria bound truck coming from Chittagong. They brought down driver Abdul Aziz, 52, from the truck, stabbed him mercilessly and looted valuables, including Tk 5,000 in cash. Aziz was rushed to the Muradnagar health complex in a critical condition. Later they stopped five other trucks one after another and looted the belongings. Separate cases were filed with the police.

#### Land granted to wife of Stewart Mujib

MADARIPUR, July 5: Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur granted 17 decimal land for a house to wife of Stewart Sultana

Bibi, reports BSS She received the documents of the land for Farhad Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur, in a simple ceremony held in the deputy commissioner, residence on June 4. Stewart Mujib was a great patriot and was one of the accused of the Agartola

#### Valuables worth Tk one lakh looted

JAMALPUR, July 5: A gang of armed miscreants looted valuables worth over Tk one lakh from the branch labour union office at Digpait in Sadar thana here on Thursday, reports UNB. Police said the gang numbering 25 to 30 stormed the branch office of the District Truck Sramik Union at dead of night and decamped with the booty in a truck. The valuables included a TV set, a steel and a wooden almira, 17 chairs and two secretariat tables. They also ransacked the picture of Bangabandhu. A case

### was lodged with the police.

Taka 54 lakh sanctioned for college bldg CHUADANGA, July 5: The government has sanctioned Taka 54.20 lakh for the construction of the academic building of

Chuadanga Government College, reports BSS. According to the Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education the construction of the three-storeyed building will be completed by December.

#### Wheat output exceeds target

MYMENSINGH, July 5: About 1,52,730 tonnes of wheat was produced in greater Mymensingh this year exceeding the target of 1,27,000 tonnes fixed by the Agriculture Extension Depart-

ment, reports BSS. According to the Agriculture Extension Department sources. a total of 72,933 hectares were brought under wheat cultivation in five districts under greater Mymensingh this year while the target was fixed at 63,500 hectares. The district-wise break up is Mymensingh 18,314 hectares, Jamalpur 17,344 hectares, Sher-pur 16,483 hectares, Netrakona 8,403 hectares and Kishoreganj 12.389 hectares.

#### Tangail-Dhaka highway being developed

TANGAIL, July 5: Roads and Highways Department, Tangail developing seven points of Tangail-Dhaka highway on emergency basis at a total cost of Taka seventy-six lakh eighty-nine thousand seven hundred sixty-nine, reports BSS.

Official sources said, under this programme earthwork and brick pavement will be done. The work will be completed soon.

#### Road construction work progressing MADARIPUR, July 5: Works on the construction and recon-

struction of 31 roads under the municipal area here are progressing fast, reports UNB.

Pourshava authority has been implementing the programme at a cost of over Tk 52.17 lakh during the current year. Pourashava chairman Khalilur Rahman said the work would be completed within the next three months. Official sources said with the implementation of the works, the communication network in the town will be improved to a great extent.

# BJMB creates enthusiasm among bus owners along Natore-Dhaka route

From MA Ali

NATORE, July 5: The newly constructed Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (BJMB) has ushered in a new era of development in the road transport sector in the northern region including Natore district. .The local bus owners are getting interested in investing

more money in this sector. The number of coaches along Natore-Dhaka route increased with the opening of the bridge. The journey period has been cut short by three hours or more along Natore-Dhaka route.

While talking to the Daily Star, Aminul Biswas, President of North Bengal Bus Owners' and Workers' Federation and owner of Natore Paribahan Ltd., told that they had decided to increase the number of coaches along this new route According to him, Natore-Dhaka journey takes five hours instead of nine hours or more at

According to him, his six coaches were running along this route before opening of BJMB. His two more new coaches have been running along this route from the very day of commissioning of BJMB. He has already bought four more new coaches including two air-conditioned coaches. Those are likely to start running within a fortnight, he added.

Raoshan Ali Praminik, one of the owners of Rahman Paribahavn, whose eight coaches have been plying on the new route, told this correspondent that he would also in-

troduce four more new coaches including two air -conditioned ones soon.

Meanwhile, there are no air -conditioned coaches along Natore-Dhaka route at present. though there are four AC coaches of Modern Enterprise and Moon Enterprise along Rajshahi-Dhaka routeThese coaches have no counter in Na-

Following the reduced journey period, the bus owners here have rescheduled timings of their coaches.

Kachi, the counter manager of Dolouchampo Paribahan said, " Earlier, the journey was of two types-day and night. But now the shift of journey has become four types, such as morning, noon, afternoon and night-

Raoshan Ali Pramamik, owner of Rahman Paribahan. said, "The day is not far away when our coaches will leave Natore at every one or two alternate hours."

About the bus-fares, Aminul Biswas, who is also the General Secretary of Natore District Bus-Minibus Owners' Group, told that they were not thinking of increasing the bus fare at present, though he said, the cost of the new route through BJMB was higher than that of previous route along Nagarbari-Aricha route.

According to him, the Natore- Dhaka coaches are now paying off Taka 50 as 'welfar toll' for Bogra Motor workers' Union and Taka 20 as 'chain money for Bogra District Motor

Owners' Group at Bonani area of Bogra Again Sherpur Motor Workers' Union, Chandaikona Motor Workers' Union at Sirajganj, Sirajganj Motor Workers' Union and the Regional Committee of Motor Owners extract Taka. 20 each , while Tangail Motor Workers' Union takes Taka 50 from the conductors of coaches along the northern region route.

Aminul informed that Bogra District Motor Owners' Group and Bogra Motor Workers' Union, in two separate letters have requested to give Taka 20 and Taka. 50 at Bonani while using the route.

"Such tolls are not reasonable and this type of extortion must be stopped," Aminul and his colleagues said adding that they had already complained to the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi about this matter.

Describing the experince of the new route, the supervisors of some Dhaka coaches said that the narrow roads and one way bridges along the route from Tangail to Nabinagar of Savar have been causing frequent traffic jam.

"If the Tangial-Savar road was expanded, one more hour could have been saved from the journey,' they said.

Manjur Alam Hasu, President of Natore District Bus-Minibus Owners' Group, told that the journey would take three hours after, completion of the proposed 53 - kilometre road from Bonpara of Natore to Nalka of Sirajganj.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Muhammad Hossain addressing the opening session of a seminar titled: "Spirit of Liberation War and CHT Peace Treaty" arranged recently by the university unit command of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad.

#### Hons course in 11 subjects to be introduced in Habigani College

HABIGANJ. July 5: Hon-ours courses in 11 subjects will be introduced in Habiganj Brindaban Government College from the next academic session, reports UNB.

Education Ministry has already given permission to this effect to start functioning of the courses in the college under Open University.

The subjects are: Bangla, Philosophy, Political Science. Islamic History and Culture. Economics, Management, Accountancy, Physics, Botany, Mathematics and Zoology.

The college, established in 1931, was nationalised in 1979. Honours courses in English, Political Science and Philosophy were introduced in the college during the British rule, but the courses were withdrawn after independence in 1947.

With the introduction of honour courses afresh in the college, a long-standing demand of the students has been fulfilled.

#### Repatriated tribals yet to get quality Aman seeds

KHAGRACHHARI, July 5: The repatriated tribal refugees are yet to get quality Aman seeds from the authority concerned hampering their farming for the current season, reports UNB.

They drew the attention of Depankar Talukder MP. Chairman of Tribal Refuge Rehabilitation Task Force Affairs, in this regard at a sapling distribution function a Panchhari High School premises in Panchhari thana recently.

Meanwhile, Thana Agriculture Office sources said they could not distribute seeds among the tribal people as seeds are yet to be reached to them although they sent a demand note for high yielding seeds to the district Agriculture Extension Department.

It is learnt that a special allotment of Tk 6 crore to provide agricultural inputs, including seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, has been made for the hill district under the CHT Integrated Agriculture Development Pro-

# Viral fever breaks out in

tal sources said, reports UNB. The poor and distressed

people of the rural areas are mostly affected by the disease and they have been suffering greatly for want of proper treatment. It is learnt that local health

complexes are facing lack of sufficient supply of medicines for treatment of the affected

as the price is abnormally high in the market. Following the outbreak of the disease, a section of dishonest medicine shop owners has

The Health Department is allegedly indifferent to the situation and failed to take any steps to check spread of the dis-

# Kishoreganj KISHOREGANJ, July 5: Viral

fever has broken out in an alarming proportion affecting at least 6,000 people in the district in the last 15 days, hospi-

The patients are given only prescriptions instead of necessary medicines. Poor patients cannot afford to buy medicine

enhanced the price of medicine to earn a windfall profit at the cost of the suffering patients.



June 26. Han A Hinan, WHO Representative in Bangladesh spoke on the occasion while Prof Nazrul Islam of Dhaka University read out the key-not paper and the pourasava Chairman Badruddin Kamran presided over. - Star photo

#### Evaluation meet on uplift projects taken by CHTDB

RANGAMATI, July 5: Vice-Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) Tara Charan Chakma on Tuesday attached importance to undertaking development programmes in the remote areas of the hill tracts which saw no uplift activities in the past, reports BSS. He was addressing an evalu-

ation meeting on the development projects taken up by the CHTDB in its conference room. The meeting was attended by the members of the CHTDB and the officials responsible for different development projects. Tara Charan Chakma, a

joint-secretary, took over the charge of the CHTDB on Thurs-

The vice-chairman is the executive chief of the CHTDB, an institution created in 1976 to bring about a positive change in the socio-economic condition of the people living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts side by side with other conventional government agencies working

The posting of Tara Charan Chakma as the executive head of the CHTDB is virtually a gesture of goodwill of the government towards implementation of the landmark CHT Peace Agreement signed on December 2 last year. The pact between the Parbotya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity and the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts ended decades-old bloodshed in the

### Phensidyl recovered

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, July 5: Palashbari police in a drive recently recovered 40 bottles of phensidyl from village Harinmari in Palashbari thana. One person was also arrested in this connection.

On a tip-off a contingent of police of Palashbari thana led by its Officer-in-Charge (OC) MA Rahim raided the house of Naya Miah of the aforementioned village. Police recovered 40 bottles of phensidyl syrup from the house. But Naya Miah fled away.

Later on police arrested a banana vendor named Shahnur on charge of supplying phensidyl and sent him to Gaibandha court hajat. A case was filed with Palashbari thana in this connection.

The government handed

over the palace along with 16

acres of land to the Archaeolog-

ical Department to preserve the

palace and make it a tourist

spot. In this connection, about

Taka One corre was sanctioned.

In next few years. The works on

the scheme will be completed in

phases, it was told by the Cus-

todian of Rangpur Museum

### By-poll Election campaign gains momentum in Barisal

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, July 5: The poll campaign has been gaining momentum in the divisional town and its adjoining areas as the by -election of Barisal-5 Constituency is nearing. The election date has been set on July 20.

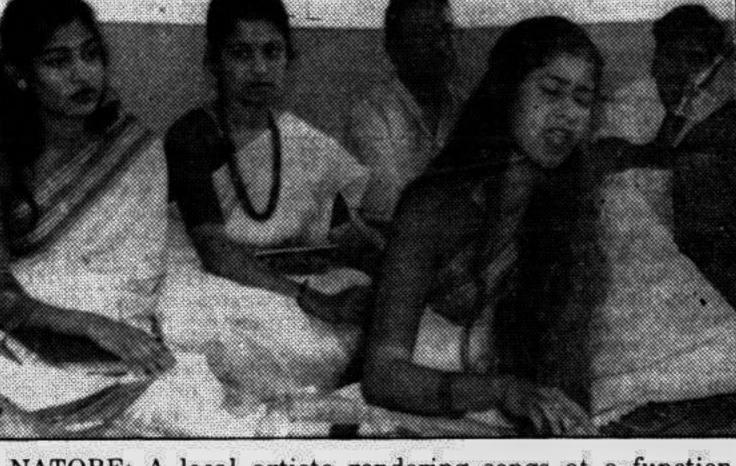
Meanwhile, after the withdrawal of three nomination papers on July 2 ,eight candidates of different political parties have been in the electoral

At last, Awami League high Commancd put Mahiuddin Ahmed, President of Barisal District Awami League (Al) unit and a former Member of Parliament (MP) of Mehendigani Constituency to contest as its candidate. Advocate Majibar Rahaman Sarwar, President of the district Bangladesh Nationalist Party( BNP) and a former MP of the same constituency has been emerged as the powerful BNP candidate. Maniruzzaman Khan Faruk, a district level Jatiyo Party (JP) leader has been contesting here as the JP candidate. On the other hand, Alhaj

Manirul Islam Moni, former JP MP of Banaripara has come in the race as an independent candidate though he claimed. many JP leaders and law makers of the central and local bodies have supported him. The supporters of AL, BNP and JP have already come down to the streets with non-stop election campaign in favour of their respective candidates .

The Barisal-5 seat fell vacant following the death of BNP MP Dr Ehteshamul Haq (Nasim Biswas) on March 12 this year.

This constituency also had another by- election in 1991 as the seat fell vacant following appointment of the then BNP MP Abdur Rahman Biswas President of Bangladesh by the then BNP government.



NATORE: A local artiste rendering songs at a function arranged here recently welcoming the rainy season.

- Star photo

# Satkhira Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

### Dacoit arrested

SATKHIRA, July 5: Syamnagar police in a special drive recently at village Patakhali

rounded up a dacoit.

The dacoit has been identified as Abdus Salam of village Nildumur in Shyamnagar thana.

A case has been registered with Shyamnagar police station. Another report adds: An old man committed suicide at a vil-

lage in Assassuni thana recently. The victim, identified as Tara Pada, 80, of village Murari Kati in Assassuni thana com-

mitted suicide by hanging. The cause of his suicide could not be known. A UD case has been registered with Assas-

suni police station. 133 arrested while being trafficked to India

A total of 133 persons including children and women were arrested by BDR jawans and police from different bordering areas of the district during period of seven days.

They were arrested while being trafficked according to local BDR sources, acting on a secret information BDR jawans of Jhhowdanga BOP arrested 46 persons including 17 women and 5 children from Biharinagar village under sadar thana while they were going to India illegally recently.

The arrested persons hailed from the districts of Manikgonj, Khulna, Bagerhat, and Satkhira.

In the other drive, BDR jawans, arrested 18 persons including 10 women and 2 children from Tahigachha bordering areas under Kalaroa thana, while they were crossing the border illegally recently.

On the same day, police arrested 69 persons including 30 women from Satkhira bus terminal while they were going to India illegally. They hailed from the districts of Pirojpur. Khulna, Bagerhat and Jessore

#### Acute water crisis 30 uplift projects at Bandarban

BANDARBAN, July 5: The Poura authority, in face of acute scarcity, is supplying drinking water among the dwellers of the town under rationing system,

is getting the limited supply after three alternate days. According to the officials of Public Health Department the acute crisis cropped up as all the 15 tubewells went out of order.

Besides, two out of three motor pumps remained out of order and water is being lifted by the only motor pump which cannot meet one fourth of the total demand.

As a result, the authority has been compelled to supply the drinking water under the rationing system causing untold sufferings to dwellers.

Mentionable, the normal life in the town has already been vitiated due to the frequent load-shedding and erratic power supply.

## in N-dists abandoned

PABNA, July 5: More than 30 development projects in the northern districts were abandoned after spending about Tk 2 crore, reports UNB.

The projects, taken up by now defunct Rajshahi Divisional Development in 1978-79 financial year, included auditorium-cum-library, poultry farms, small and cottage industrial units and a training centre

for unskilled labours. Lands were acquired and implementation of the projects had started. But the projects were left half done with the annulment of Rajshahi Divisional Development Board by the successive government through an ordinance.

The action of the authorities resulted in wastage of a huge public money and rendering cultivable lands unused for a long time.

# Maharaja Gobinda Lal's memory remains everfresh in people's heart

From Mozammel Haque

RANGPUR, July 5: The memory of a 'Maharaja' re-

mains everfresh in people's heart for many years. The historic Tajhat Palace, about 4 km away from Rangpur town, is standing arrogantly displaying its enchanting beauties to the visitors.

In 1917, the palace was constructed over an area of about 100 acres of land at Tajhat by Maharaja Gobinda Lal Roy Bahadur Yar-Jung. There is a popular tale, once the Governor of undivided Bengal Lord Tomas David Barron Carmichael visited the palace in 1917 at the invitation of the 'Maharaja' and he had a cup of tea with him there. On his departure the Governor spoke very highly about the palace. He termed it as a symbol of high architecture which is rare in

the region. The Maharaja was very much kind- hearted and a philanthropist.

He always behaved nicely with the tenants of his Zamindari at Tajhat Estate. He donated huge lands of his Zamindar at Tajhat Estate.

He donated a vast tract of land of his Zamindari towards establishment of renowned Carmichael College.He also constructed the Gobindalal Hostel of the college from his personal fund. A vital road in the town area was contructed by him to establish good road communication in the district town. Later it was renamed as G

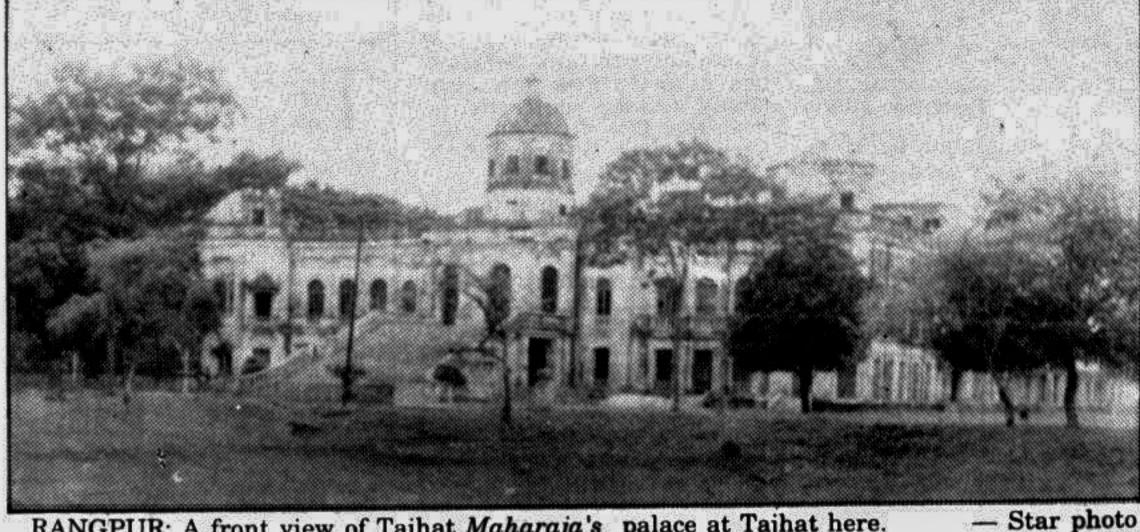
L Roy Road. The Maharaja was also a

sports enthusiast. He introduced the renowned GL Shield Football Tournament in Rangpur town .He donated the championship shield. In the pre-independence days the tournament was held under the management of the district sports association. Many well- reputed football teams from India and various parts of the country participated in the tourna-

on purchased the palace along with its land and other property from the heirs of Maharaja and established an agricultural school there. Few years later the agricultural school was replaced by Agriculture Inservice Training Institute.

In 1982, the institute was shifted to elsewhere and the High Court bench of the

Abu Bakr Siddique. Supreme Court division was



RANGPUR: A front view of Tajhat Maharaja's palace at Tajhat here. Situated in a calm and quiet established in the palace. In ment.Now the tournament has

been abandoned for reasons unknown to the people. In 1952, the Maharaja left for Calcutta as the government

abolished the Zamindari system in the country. But on way he died in the train due to heart

The provincial government of the joint-front regime later

to Dhaka. Since then the palace has been lying barren due to lack of proper maintenance and supervision. Grabbing this opportunity the miscreants looted away valuable property of the palace including doors, windows, statues and stone-tiles.

1992 the High Court was shifted

scenaries. Tajhat Palace will be an ideal tourist spot, experienced circle opined. The gigantic work of recon-

place and surrounded by green

struction of the palace regaining its lost beauties has been started in full swing. But adequate fund is required to complete the work.

reports UNB. Under the system each area