180 Days

Won

fish in Pabna

PABNA, Oct 11: Fish and fish fry worth about Tk 3.52 crore have been washed away from the ponds of the district by the flood waters, reports APB.

Fisheries Department sources here said 802 tonnes of fish and 102 tonnes of fish fry of 3,026 ponds were washed away during the two-and-ahalf-month long floods.

Worst affected was the Chatmohar thana, they said, adding 175 tonnes of fish and fish fry were washed away from some 1,000 ponds of the thana

alone. The sources, however, said the extent of losses could be much higher.

Thai central bank buys dollars as baht rises

BANGKOK, Octl 1 Thailand's central bank bought an undisclosed amount of dollars as the Thai currency, the baht, rose to a four and a half month high, a senior central bank official said on Thursday, reports AP.

The Bank of Thailand bought the dollars on Wednesday to settle forward foreign currency contracts, and not to halt or slow the rapid appreciation of the Thai currency, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bank of Thailand governor Chatu Mongol Sonakul had said earlier that the central bank would buy the dollar whenever it fell to an attractive level for settling its foreign currency obligations.

On Thursday, the baht was trading at 38.45 to the dollar. In July 1997, the Thai government unmoored the baht from its narrow peg of about 25 to the dollar, after the central bank had depleted most of the country's foreign reserves defending the currency against speculative attacks.

That set off a series of competitive devaluations around the region that sparked a financial crisis and wiped out much of the economic gains of several nations achieved over the last decade.

Several, including Thailand, required massive bailouts by the International Monetary Fund.

The crisis has since spread globally, hitting countries as far away as Russia and Brazil.

Despite the financial disaster in Thailand, the cheaper baht has been a boon to Thai exports, which had become uncompetitive and were stagnating when the baht was fixed against the dollar.

The Thai central bank official did not disclose the amount of the purchase or the price, but currency traders in Bangkok said that the baht's rise against the dollar was capped by market talk of intervention at around 38.70-38.80 baht to the

dollar. Wednesday's closing level was the highest against the dollar since May 14, when the US currency closed at 38.65

Meeting on trade among Islamic states begins today in Tripoli

Star Business Reports The three-day 5th private sector meeting for promotion of trade and joint venture investment among Islamic countries opens in Tripoli today.

Managing Director of Paramount Securities Ltd Mohammed Zainul Abedin has left Dhaka to attend the meeting, says a press release.

On way back home he wil visit Bahrain and Saudi Ara-

US plan to build Caucasus pipeline seems to be failing

NEW YORK, Oct 11: A US plan to persuade major oil companies to build a multibillion-dollar pipeline in the Caucasus seems to be failing, the New York Times reported in its Sunday editions, reports

Reuters. For the past two years, the paper said, the Clinton administration has been trying to convince the oil firms to construct the pipeline from Baku. the capital of Azerbaijan

through Turkey to its Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. Describing the pipeline plan as "a centrepiece of American foreign policy," the report cited administration officials, congressional aides and oil executives who said that the companies will probably decide that

the American backed pipeline is too expensive to build right now. Its cost had been estimated at four billion dollars. Instead, the companies are expected to rely on a shorter pipeline already under construction between Azerbaijan to the port of Supsa, to transport

the large quantities of oil believed to lie near the Caspian Although the proposed route of the US-backed Caspian project was the longest and most expensive, the United States was pushing it hard because such a route would guarantee that the oil passed through

countries friendly to US inter-

ests Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey. The oil companies decision to choose the shorter route means that Turkey, a US ally. would potentially lose billions of dollars in revenues." I think it is a defeat," one state department official told the paper

Flood washes away tk 3.52cr Rift over IMF's role in KL's forex controls dealing with crises

CHICAGO, Oct Economists and financial experts at a Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago conference divided sharply here over the International Monetary Fund's role in dealing with financial crises, reports Reuters.

"Abolishing the IMF may be the right policy to pursue if it turns out that the path to reform - including credible IMF enforcement of meaningful membership criteria that limit the safety-net abuse - is blocked by those with vested interests in preserving the status quo," Charles Calomiris, Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia University, told the Chicago Fed's three-day conference, dubbed "Asia: An analysis of financial crisis."

"Moral hazard is the key villain in the recent, unprecedented wave of financial collapses," Calomiris' said, referring to the notion that prospects of an IMF-led bailout led investors to take too much risk — this leading to financial crises.

Calomiris proposed the creation' of a new international body with strict membership

rules that would limit the moral hazard and "replaced not only the current IMF, but other lending programme, including the (Treasury's) exchange stabilisation fund and ad hoc emergency lending by the World Bank and the Inter-American

Development Bank." Allan Meltzer, professor of Political Economy at Carnegie Mellon University, said the conditions that led to the creation of the IMF in 1944 had dramatically changed.

Meltzer said he supported creating an international lender of last resort to replace the IMF.

Roberto Chang, senior economist at the Atlanta Red. said the IMF might change its approach to dealing with crises. The IMF can be part of the solution, but I would like to see

how the IMF or some other in-

ternational lender of last resort

evolves, Chang told Reuters af-

ter taking part in a panel, discussion at the conference. Such a new institution should provide liquidity when needed but at the same time should not encourage moral hazard, said Chang, who added

that the IMF might become an

active intermediary between debtor countries and international lenders.

What the IMF can do is try to facilitate these credit arrangements between governments

and creditors, Chang said. The IMF also needs to change in the area of research, where more transparency is needed.

IMF Director of Research Michael Mussa defended IMFled rescue packages that help lessen the economic toll taken by financial crises.

Moral hazard is a greatsounding topic, Mussa told the conference. But he stressed: IMF makes loans it intends to be ful repaid. It does not make gifts.

Mussa said IMF financial packages helped lessen the true economic damage associated with economic crises, and called Russia the only case in which prospects of IMF backing were a key consideration for investors.

There is no doubt that in financial markets there was a perception Russia was too nuclear to fail ... in the case of South Korea, that's not plausible he said.



Rokia A Rahman, President of Bangladesh Employers' Association (BEA), Sunday inaugurated a meeting on productivity audit conducted by BEA on selected enterprises.

- BEA photo

draw Asean support

MANILA, Oct 11: Malaysia's currency controls are gaining sympathy from within Asean after the group failled last week to draw up clear alternatives to ease the pain from the regional

financial crisis, reports AFP.
Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic ministers held two days of discussions over a proposed package of 'bold measures' to steer the region out of the turmoil.

But talks ended with the ministers failing to approve any actions or even divulge detailed proposals.

Ministers from Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam said they referred the measures back to their senior officials who are to conduct further studies in consultation with their finance ministries.

The measures could then be announced during the Asean leaders' summit in Hanoi in December.

But with the crisis hitting ordinary southeast Asians. Malaysia's move to squeeze out currency speculators it blames for triggering the malaise appeared to be gaining sympathy, or at least tolerance, from

neighbours. We each have our individual responses. We maintain our flexibilities because we have our respective milieux to respond to, the Philippine Trade secretary Jose Pardo said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad imposed the controls last month to curb offshore currency speculation in the ringgit and regulate short-term capital flows. The ringgit was also fixed at 3.80 to the dollar.

The abrupt and massive withdrawal of short-term capital, previously poured into the region, has destabilised financial systems and sent stock markets tumbling to historic depths.

While ASEAN's nine member countries see convergence in their commitment to tear down import tariffs on most products by 2003 in the region is also mindful that we have our own peculiarities and demands that separate economies have to contend with Pardo said.

What the economic managers of Malaysia have done, I think, suits their environment and the conditions in their country.

Rodolfo Secerino, Secretary General of the Jakarta-based ASEAN Secretariat, said Malaysia was entitled to do whatever it takes to ease the human suffering. We should not approach this

is an ideological manner, said Secerino, who attended the meetings here, we have to consider the effect of capital movements on the lives of our people.

Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz used the Manila meeting to assure her counterparts that the controls did not contradict Kuala Lumpur's commitments to free trade.

The controls were targetted only against jet-setting capital infused into the financial and stock markets she said. Longterm foreign direct investment would be unscathed, she added.

"The stability of the exchange rate in fact facilitates trade for us," Rafidah said. "It enables traders to deal with Malaysia and Malaysia to deal with the rest of the world with certainty and predictability."

However, "for those who are speculating, those who are arbitraging, their business is dead, that's for sure."

She said Malaysia would not ask its neighbours to adopt the same measures, because "you cannot apply one prescription to every country even if the countries are in the same re-

Buthal Hill, an economics professor at the Australian National University, warned that countries "with even more precarious political equations. shakier economies and weaker bureaucracies may be tempted to go down this route, emboldened by the Malaysian experiment.

In an article for the Asian Wall Street Journal on Friday, Hill said: "Indonesia is the most obvious case in point, but there are others."

Indonesian coordinating minister for the economy Ginangar Kartasasmita said at the Manila meeting that Jakarta was considering regulating short-term capital inflows, although he clarified later at home that the government was in "no hurry" to do it.

In Washington on Sunday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said controls on capital movements, while never an effective long-term measure, could be appropriate in certain circumstances.

the US dollar from 1.6875 in

Kong dollar closed on Friday at

7.747-7.748 to the greenback

compared to 7.748-7.749 the

piah strengthened to close on

Friday at 9,000 rupiah to the

greenback, compared to last

week's closing of 10,725 rupiah.

est since the political distur-

bances in May which sent the

rupiah tumbling to the 15,000

gained 1.7 per cent to close at

43.25 pesos to the US dollar on

Friday from 43.99 to the dollar

strengthened from 1,388 won

per dollar a week before to 1,343

won to the greenback on Satur-

day as the dollar weakened

against the yen and South Ko-

rea's current account surplus

serves rose to 46.98 billion dol-

lars at the end of September

from 45.09 billion a month

earlier, the Central Bank of Ko-

dollar climbed to 32.823

against the greenback, com-

pared to 33.710 the previous

week, after local foreign cur-

rency dealers scrambled to set-

tle accounts anticipating fur-

strengthened against the dollar

over the week to Friday on a

stronger Japanese yen and ex-

pectations the US may further

Thai baht: The baht

Taiwan dollar: The Taiwan

South Korea's foreign re-

Philippine peso: The peso

South Korean won: The won

level against the greenback.

Friday's close was the high-

Indonesian rupiah: The ru-

Hong Kong dollar: The Hong

line with the Japanese yen.

previous week.

on October 2.

kept pilling up.

rea said.

ther rises.

Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to clients. Selling TT & Buying TT Selling BC Buying OD Buying TT & Currency USD 46.9100 47.3450 46.7570 46.6850 47.3050 79.6532 79.3934 79.2711 81.0335 81.1020 DEM 29.0678 28.5740 29.0924 28.4370 28.4808 0.4083 0.3911 0.4087 0.3898 0.3892 FRF 8.4620 8.7280 8.7354 8.4214 8.4344 SAR 12.6477 12.4741 12.6584 12.4142 12.4334 12.4497 12.3457 12.2562 12.2865 12.4610 12.9153 12.7362 12.9263 12.6947 12.6751 KWD 162.7279 150.7391 162.8655 150.2474 150.0161 12.8506 13.0420 QAR 13.0310 12.7890 12.8087 USD usance export Bill buying rates:

44.5645 US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) as of October 11, 1998 Buying Selling Currency Month Months Months Months Months Cash 46.6850 47.3050 USD 5.40625 5.34375 5.15625 5.0 7.3125 7.25 7.0625 6.9375 6.8125 TC | 46.6850 | 47.3050 | GBP Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars Pak Rupee Thai Baht | Malaysian | Indonesian Indian Korean

30 Days 60Days 90 Days 120 Days

38.50/

46.8112 46.5191 46.1282 45.7373

54.15/

Rupee

42.33/

42.43

38.60

Ringgit

3.7997/

Rupiah

9200/

Amex notes on Sunday's market USD/BDT market was sluggish on Sunday as most of the international centres were closed due to weekend. USD/BDT mostly traded within range

of 47.23-47.2450. Call money market was active on Sunday. Call rates reached as high as 8.5% after opening at 8.00%. The rates later came down to 6.5%. Most of the deals were done between 7.00-7.75%.

The dollar opened in New York lower against the yen in volatile dealings as Japanese officials dismissed intervention speculation amid fears of hedge fund selling. At the open, the dollar/yen was at 117.70/80 from 118.85/95 at the close on Thursday, but well off its overnight low at 115.32. Speculation that the United States and /or Japan would brake the dollar's slide against the yen with intervention was shelved overnight as Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told parliament it would be okay to only monitor forex market movements unless they became intolerable. Following two days of eight to ten yen ranges, traders said the market was frazzled and might look to square lingering dollar/yen short positions ahead of the weekend, but poor liquidity portended choppy action.

Dollar /mark edged higher in New York on Friday following a key technical reversal on Thursday, helped by rallies in overseas equities. The Indian rupee ended at 43.34/35 per dollar on Friday, barely changed from its previous closing level of 42.345/355.

In New York, the majors closed on Friday against the USD at 1.6344/47 DEM, 116.55/60 JPY, 5.4799/09 FRF, 1.3225/35 CHF, and GBP at 1.7050/60 USD.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT Berth position and performance of vessels as on 11-10-98

Berth name of vessels Cargo L port Local Date of Leaving agent arrival 13/10 Salinthip Nargee Wheat(P) Litmond 12/10 Bintang Harapan Prog 11/10 Yang Lin Sing Bdship 17/10 ASLL GI Safar Wheant(P) P SayedSeacom 18/10 Makron 14/10 Feiyu USTC 27/9 Cement 18/10 R Seed Mallika Naree Sord Litmond 14/10 Sibel Deval Wheat(P) Imat Seaglory 19/10 S Hai Songlin Prog 13/10 Sing RSL Xpress Padma Cont 16/10 PSAL Pinar Kaptanoglu What(P) 22/9 Txox EOLS 13/10 Bunga Mas Enam P Kel J/12 Cont 12/10 BSC J/13 Sing 8/10 Banglar Moni Cont 12/10 Col Baridhi Cont 8/10 CCT/1 Abuja 13/10 QCSL CCT?2 Qc Pintail Cont Sing 12/10 Pil(BD) 7/10 CCT/3 Sing Kota Bintang Cont 13/10 RM/14 B J Energy P Kel USTC Cement Jedd 11/10 Wheat(G) Ancient Sca Danial 18/10 R Sulp Tia Estela B ABB Seacom 11/10 RM/5 Stavanger Oak Cement Indo Delmure 11/10 RM/6 Pavlovo Indo Delmure Cement BSC 11/10 Banglar Shourabh COil 21/10 BSC R/A Banglar Kallol Repair DDJ/1 PSAL Tanary Star Рага 13/10 Als Salamas Repair Visa ASLL RM/9 Banglar Mamata Repair

Vessels due at outer anchorage Cargo Loading Name of vessels Date of L port Local arrival call agent SMSL 13/10 -Ocean-1 P Cargo 11/10 Total Tug et Ocean-8 R Seed lilac Island 12/10 Sing Seacom 15/10 Rice(P) kaki Kimgdong Pil(BD) Cont 13/10 Sing Kota Berjaya (Cont)3/10 TSP Wanfa 12/10 Litmond 13/10 Sing BSC Cont Banglar Robi(Cont)4/10 13/10 EOSL Kelang Cont Busnga Mal-11 15/10 Turk What(P Kollentum Majestic Col Bardhi Cont Makassar Express (Cont)4/1014/10 16/10 Sing Pil(BD) Cont Sing Kota Naga (Cont)4/10 15/10 Sing RSL Cont Sing Manaslau(Cont)4/10 G Prog Corali 18/10 RML Sign Combi Marine Kingdom 17/10 Scraping Hunter 16/10 Pira 16/10 Bdship Jiang Chuan Xpress Resol Ve (Cont) 7/10 Sign Sing Cont 16/10 17/10 What(G Overseas Arctic Ancient Sign 17/10 Nol Cont Jurong Balsam (Cont)8/10 Sing 18/10 Sign Bdship Cont Banglar Biraj (Cotn) 7/10 QCSL 19/10 Cont QC Teal(Cont) 7/10 Sing 19/10 Col BBA Cehi Ocean Blue (Roro/24)13/9 Vehi 19/10 Col Sun Mateo(Roro/24)/ QCSL Sing Sing 20/10 Cont Prosrice(Cont)7/10 Oil GI 20/10 Sea Pioneer An Ansal Eagal 13/10

Tanker due: TSL CDSO Grigoriy Ordzhonikidze 12/10 MBL Hesiod 12/10 Vessesl at Kutubdia Date of Cargo Last port Local Name of vessels arrival call agent R/A(2/8) Seabulk Command Vessels at outer anchorage Ready on: 27/9 Rainbow Dubai Merchant Bang R Seed BSC R/A C Oil Banglar Jyoti 9/10 Pil(BD) Sign Kota Singa (Cont) Cont 10/10 BBA Vehi Keishun (Ror/24) 11/10 CTPL F Oil Pranedya' Pratama Vessels not ready: 4/10 Ilyi Litmond Zarina-1 OWSL Tampa Eastwood Gtsp SSST GtspqTampa Alpaha Bravery 9/10 Rice(P)GI Seacom Kand Banglar Shobha 10/10 Undok-1 Cement Indo PSAL Vessels awaiting instruction

UST R/A(18/9) Karya Sentosa Ric(G) R/A(9/9) OWSL Kaki Rong Jiang Rice(G) MHCSL R/A(26/9) Eka Lestari Prra Rice(G) R/A(24/9) MHCSL Kaka Rice(G) Shong Chong Gang R/A(24/9) Kaki Cross Rice(P) R/A(5/10) USTC Rice(G) Adhiguna Jaya-1 Delta Star R/A(7/7) RSA R/A(26/5) HSL Tempest MBAL R/A(4/10) Silver Star **Vessels Not Entering**

Damm

Col

USTC

Col Tug De ping 2/10 Scraping Fuja Iscult R/A(7/10) AASS Good will R/A(10/10 Litmond Kallang R/A(10/10 ASLL **Qcean Pine** Movement of vessels for 12-10-98 SHIFTING OUTGOING INCOMEING J/12 B Mas Eanm to CCT CCT/1 Kota Singa J/2B Harapan B Shobha J/2 Kieshun Douhaimurcont J/3 Songline CSJ Kallang J/13 B Moni

Urea

N Island CCT/1 Abuja Kota Bintang CCT/3 Pavolovo RM/6DDJ B Jyoti The above are today's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied

Congress, White House trade blame in budget talks also been all around the coun matters. The other thing that

WASHINGTON, Oct 11: Republicans and Democrats swapped blame yesterday for failing to break a stalemate over a huge spending bill needed to avoid an election-year federal shutdown, reports Reuters.

Congressional and White House negotiators were set to work through the weekend in hopes of crafting an end-of-session spending bill that would pass muster with the Republican-controlled Congress and President Clinton.

With the temporary measure that ran the government since the Oct 1 start of the fiscal year due to expire at midnight Friday, Congress passed another interim measure that would last through Monday.

Congress and the White House have agreed so far on just five of the 13 spending bills that fund the government.

To keep money flowing to federal agencies and let congress adjourn for the year, lawmakers may try to roll as many as eight of the more contentious bills into a huge compromise spending measures.

In rhetoric intended to influence voters in the November elections, Republicans charged Clinton with trying to break the budget and being too distracted to focus on the spending negotiations. Democrats slammed Republicans for mismanaging the spending bills and for slighting domestic programmes.

We need to get the president's lican said. This president has

team to come to work on these been otherwise engaged, but he's

concerns us is the president clearly wants to spend the surplus on more government spending, House Republican leader Dick Armey of Texas

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, an Alaska Republican, said that by the time all the relatively small differences were added up, the White House wanted some 9 billion dollars more in domestic spending than called for in Republican plans. Republicans said it offered no plan to offset the spending.

But Clinton, flanked by democratic leaders at a White House event, blamed Republicans for shortchanging educa-

Members of Congress should not go home until they pass a budget that will strengthen our public schools for the 21st century, Clinton said.

Linda Ricci, spokeswomen for the White House budget office, charged that Republicans so far had not negotiated seri-

We've been wanting to talk about substantive issues, and they just want to talk about the shape of the table, Ricci said. Bob Livingston, Chairman

of the House Appropriations Committee, bristled at suggestions that Congress had shirked its work on the spending bills. We've been ready to go for a long time, the Louisiana Repub-

try doing fund-raisers. Amid the finger-pointing

the White House sounded optimistic that it would get the edge in the budget tussle, marking change from its gloom after the House's vote Thursday for ar impeachment inquiry against

"There are an awful lot of issues to be resolved, and I think the lion's share of them are going to be resolved in (Clinton's favour. He's in a very strong position" White House senior adviser Paul Begala said.

Republicans — determined to avoid a repeat of the 1995 budget impasse that closed government agencies for several weeks in a public relations disaster for the party - worried they were on the losing end of negotiations. I am concerned we are giv-

ing up too much. I may not support the final package," Don Nickles of Oklahoma, the Assistant Senate Republican Leader, said.

As both sides fired rounds at each other, negotiators faced the challenge of ruling yet another spending bill not the huge catchall measure.

Senate democrats blocked a 13 billion dollar bill to fund the treasury department, the US Postal Service and general government operations after Republicans deleted provisions to expand federal employees' health insurance coverage for contraceptives and grant permanent residency to 40,000 Haitian refugees.

Asian units going strong

Weekly Currency Roundup

HONG KONG, Oct 11: Curren: cies in the Asia-Pacific region strengthened against the greenback in a week that saw US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warn of a weakened outlook for the American economy, reports AFP.

Japanese Yen: The yen ral lied against dollar by some 15 per cent in the past week to hit its highest level in 14 months as the US unit kept tumbling on foreign exchange markets on bleak prospects for the US economy

The Japanese unit fetched 117.18-12 to the dollar late Friday, sharply up from 134.77-80 to the dollar a week earlier, after soaring for four straight days. It started the week lower,

falling to 135.74-77 to the dollar on Monday due to disappointment over a weekend Group of Seven meeting, which failed to come up with decisive measures to reverse the yen's weakness in recent months.

tralian dollar is set to consolidate its recent gains in the week ahead, but will closely watch a string of price and activity data in the United States, economists said The Aussie rallied strongly

Australian dollar: The Aus-

over the week, closing the session on Friday at 61.57 US cents, 2.2 cents higher than a week ago. On the Reserve Banks' trade weighted Index, the Australian

dollar closed the week at 54.1 points. New Zealand dollar: The New Zealand dollar closed sharply up at 52.50 US cents against its close a week earlier

at 50.02 cents. Singapore dollar: The Sin- compared to the previous week gapore dollar rose to 1.6485 to close's at 39.53-58.

slash interest rates. The Thai unit closed at 38.52-57 baht to the dollar,

Unemployment may triple in S'pore

SINGAPORE, Oct 11: As many as 175,000 Singaporeans could be jobless by next year, nearly tripling the unemployment rate to 9 per cent, a newspaper Sunday quoted a government official as saying, says

Lim Swee Say, deputy secre-tary-general of the National Trade Union Congress, was quoted as saying by The Sunday Times that the regional financial crisis was not the only factor feeding unemployment. Lim said picky job-seekers and unrealistic employers were

also to blame. "We have to work hard at changing attitudes," Lim said, adding that employers have to learn to accept older workers, since 40 per cent of Singapore's jobless. work force is above 40.

rate is currently 3.2 per cent. For years unemployment has been very low in this wealthy nation of 3.1 million.

Singapore's unemployment

Sea World

by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Izmail

Though Singapore has been least affected by the regional economic turmoil, its trade, tourism and financial sectors have proved increasingly susceptible to the crisis over the past few months. The grim projection of

175,000 jobless by far exceeds the recession in 1985 and 1986, when the number of unemployed reached 20,000. The government has repeat-

edly said it will not introduce unemployment benefits for Singaporeans who lose their jobs, and that the real solution is to create jobs and retrain the

a gathering of bete

Mosharraf Hossain, Managing Director of Agrani Bank, addressing growers of Panchasar Union under Munshigonj district. Among others, General Manager AKM Abdul Basit and Deputy Commissioner of Munshigonj district Nurul Haque were present while General Manager AH Ekbal Hossain presided over the conference. Mosharraf Hossain disbursed loans amounting Tk 2.36 lakh among the betel growers on - Agrani Bank photo the spot and urged them to properly use the loans.