-National

Newssnaps

New elected chairman of Kalidaspur union

From Our Correspondent CHUADANGA, Nov 13: Nurul Islam was elected the chairman of Kalidaspur union in Alamdanga thana by obtaining 4,788 votes. He defeated his nearest rival Emdadul

Hoque by 3,102 votes. Emdadul Hoque got only 1,686 votes.

The by-election to the post of chairman was held on Octobers
26 peacefully. The post had fallen vaccant due to the murder of
the former chairman Gauhar Ali by miscreants on September 9 last. A total of 64 per cent of the total voters cast their votes in the by-election. The total number of voters were 11,057.

Girl killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Nov 13: A girl student of Gangabardi Agriculture Training Institute was killed in a road accident recently near

the institute on Faridpur-Kamarkhali highway. The accident occured when a speeding micro-bus suddenly knocked down the victim identified as Shikha Rani Biswas while she was crossing the road. The victim was rushed to Faridpur General Hospital from where she was shifted to Dhaka in a critical candition. Shikha succumbed to her injuries just after her admission there.

Three shops gutted in Ishwarganj

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Nov 13: Property worth about Taka 7,00,000 was burnt to ashes in a devastating fire that broke out at Sohagi Bazar in Ishwargani thana recently.

The fire originated from electric short circuit gutted three shops of the bazaar. The owners of affected shops were: Khairul Islam, Abul Kashem and Fazlul Haque. Villagers tried their best to extinguish the fire, but in vain as there is no fire service station in Iswargani.

Three commit suicide

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, Nov 13: Three pesons including two housewives

committed suicide by taking poison in two days.
Police sources said, Saheb Ali, 23, son of Babar Ali of village Sara and Anita Rani Sarder, 25, wife Ganga Ram Sardar of village Thakurabad both of Assassuni thana committed suicide recently by taking poison. Family troubles were the cause of their suicide. On the following day. Padma Rani Mondal, 25, wife of Prasad Kumar Mondal of village Naver Abad in Assassuni thana committed suicide by taking poison.

Apex Club executives

From Our Corespondent BRAHMANBARIA. Nov 13: The executive body's election of

APEX-club of Brahmanbaria was held here recenlty. Muhammad Arjoo and Md Humayun Kabir were elected president and secretary respectively of the club. The other members are: Senior Vice President- Advocate Amit Kumar Paul, Junior Vice president- Al-haj Aminul Islam, Treasurer-Mili Chowdhury, Service Director-Advocate Abdul Malek. member Tajul Islam Babu, Fellowship and PRS director Mohsin Asgar, Public speaker and Debt Director Advocate M H Sarker Pasha and Sgt-At-Arms Sayed Muhammad Angur.

New convening body of DAB

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 13: The new convening committee of Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB). Netrakona district branch was formed here recently.

The committee of 17 members was formed with Dr Kamal Uddin as convenor and Dr Shama-e-Tabrij as membersecretary. This committee was formed in a meeting held at DAB office in Mukterpara area in the town with Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed in the chair. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Aftab Uddin Kajol. THA Mohangong Thana Health complex, Dr MA Satter and others.

Youth killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 13: A youngman was killed when a paddy loaded truck skidded off the road recently near Chhalabhara in Kaligani thana.

The dead was identified as Sanjit Kumar Saha, 39, a paddy merchant of village Fulahari in Sailkupa thana, according to police sources. Police and eyewitnesses said, the accident occured when the driver of the truck tried to overtake a Jhenidah bound bus. Sanjit died on the spot while five others received injuires. The body was sent to Jhenidah sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to flee.

Election of Chamber executives

BAGERHAT, Nov 13: Election of president and senior vicepresident of Bagerhat Chamber of Commerce and Industries was held on November 3 in the chamber office, reports BSS. Kazi Mahfuzur Rahman and Kazi A Mukit were elected president and senior vice-president respectively.

Five children missing

SHARIATPUR, Nov 13: The incidents of abduction of children have increased alarmingly in the district causing concern

for the guardians, reports UNB

Five children have remained missing from Kerokandi area in the district last week and the people feared that they had been abducted by traffickers. The children were identified as Chanchal, 11, Jashim, 9, Milon, 8, Sarwar, 10, and Towdihul Huq. 12. In another incident in the same area, a boy Babu, 9, was saved from the clutches of the traffickers by chance, said the local people. The culprits offered him some biscuits and took him into a car on his way to the school. But the engine of the car developed a trouble on the way and the boy got down from it. The men later left the area apprehending trouble from the local people.

Winter clothes distributed

TANGAIL. Nov 13: Jaglu Foundation, a social welfare organisation, distributed winter clothes among 132 distressed families of Hugra union of sadar thana on November 10. The families lost their lands and property due to erosion by the river Jamuna. Prof Shamsul Huda, president of the foundation, distributed the clothes in a simple ceremony.

Prize bonds scarce

COMILLA, Nov 13: Prize bonds and postal stamps have become quite scarce in almost all the post offices of the district for over the last one month, reports APB.

Most of the post offices do not have postal stamps of Taka one and two denominations, although those of 40 paisa denominations are available, consumers said. Apart from the commonman, the publishers of newspapers have been facing a great deal of problems in sending them to the destinations due to this scarcity of postal stamps. The post office sources said the problem has arisen owing to the fact that inadequate number of postal stamps had been supplied to them from the headquarters. A good number of intending customers go back disappointed from the post offices and banks due to nonavailability of prize bonds, alleged the consumers.

Road construction scheme undertaken

MUNSHIGANJ, Nov 13: Work on 37 schemes for reconstruction of flood-ravaged roads, culverts and bridges in six thanas of the district has been undertaken by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under a Taka 2.27 crore post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports BSS.

Reconstruction of 15 roads, five bridges and culverts and repair of 16 bridges are included in the schemes which are expected to be completed by December next, an LGED source said.

'Boro' farming programme in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Nov 13: A total of 50,608 hectares have been brought out under 'Boro' cultivation in five thanas and two pourashavas in the district in the current 'Robi' season, reports

The Agricultural Extension Department (AED) sources said of the total land 29,250 hectares have been brought under High Yielding Variety and 21,358 hectares under local variety. AED supplied necessary seeds, fertilisers, insecticides for successful implementation of the programme. Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sonali, Janata and Agrani Bank have disbursed loans among the farmers to boost production.

Medical representative commits suicide JHALAKATHI, Nov 13: A medical representative of a local

pharmaceutical company committed suicide by taking poison in the town on Tuesday night, reports APB.

The victim was identified as Sadananda Chandra, 30, of Kamarkati village in Swarupkati thana of Pirojpur district. He was a medical representative of Medimade Pharmaceutical Company and posted at Chittagong. Witnesses said local people found him lying at the neighbouring Muslim graveyard at about 8 pm and rushed to the sadar hospital. Later, he was shifted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal where the attending doctors declared him dead at about 1 am on Wednesday.

Outlawed groups hold some 15 lakh people hostage in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Nov 13: Following increased rivalry between outlawed armed groups, the law and order situation in the district has taken a turn for the

worse, reports APB. Locals said, 15 lakh people in all six thanas of the district are virtually hostages in the hands of the outlawed armed groups, whose number totals some 5,000.

In all, according to police, 96 people have been killed over the past 10 months of the current year and most of them fell prey to the armed activists of outlawed political parties.

The victims were workers or supporters of such political parties as Awami League, BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, JSD, and underground political organisations as Gano Fouz, Sramajibi Mukti Andolan, Purba Banglar Communist Party, Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), Shariful Bahini, Bidhan Bahini, Montoo Bahini, Siddique Mollah Bahini, Krishna Bahini and the like.

Of the killings, 32 were held in Jhenidah Sadar, 18 in Harinakundu, 17 in Kaliganj, 16 in Shailakupa, eight in Kotchandpur and five in Moheshpur

Sramajibi Mukti Andolan (SMA), a bifurcated faction of RCP, till now maintains its 'supremacy' in all the thana headquarters as well as the rural areas of south western and eastern sides of sadar thana and parts of Maheshpur, Kotchandpur, Harinakundu

and Shailakupa thanas. Purba Banglar Communist Party, on the other hand, retains its supremacy in the eastern and western side of the sadar thana and parts of Harinakundu thana.

Bidhan Bahini has to control over the eastern part while the Shariful Bahini controls the southern side of Kaligani thana. Montoo Bahini controls

parts of Harinakundu thana

while Gano Fouz, Siddique

Bahini and Krishna Bahini

control western, eastern and northern sides of Shailakupa thanas, respectively. Besides, there are smaller armed groups in various thanas of the district, who also collect tolls from the members of the public forcibly. They are learnt to be spending the money in

purchasing arms and ammuni-

loot, arson and rape against the outlawed groups. Commonman, however, do not dare to lodge official complaints against the

armed groups. The armed groups, sources said, often commit armed dacoities and indulge in armed clashes amongst themselves.

The elements behave like 'government' in their areas of command. As a result, people who do not feel safe to stay in the areas usually move on the safer places.

Notwithstanding 'special operations' by the law enforcing agencies from time to time, the armed political groups continue to operate quite openly in the areas, locals said.

A high ranking police official told that they were illequipped to cope up with the armed groups, because, they do not have adequate and modern arms and ammunition, speedy vehicles and adequate man-

Jhenidah has been listed as a 'crime zone' in view of the activities of these groups, he said, adding the government has decided to set up 16 new police stations in Khulna division to

contain crime in the areas.



MAGURA: Jute sticks are being sold in rural areas at a higher price due to acute scarcity of fuelwood following the deluge. - Star photo

Outbreak of eye, skin diseases in Netrakona dist

From Our Correspodent

NETRAKONA, Nov 13 : Eye and skin diseases have broken out in an epidemic form throughout the district during the last one month.

in 10 thanas have been attacked by the diseases.

Many people including children have been attacked with the diseases at Netrakona sader, Barhatta, Kalmakanda, Atpara, Mohangonj, Madan. Khaliajuri, Purbadhala, Durgapur and Kendua.

Civil Surgeo of Netrakona Dr Matiur Rahman told that eye disease was being spread by bacteria and virus. The patients feel discomfort. The patients are advised to apply antibiotic drops and ointment. Eyes should be washed with normal saline and dark glasses should be used as the very disease is contagious. Proper treatment is being ensured to the patients, he

The civil surgeon said that skin diseases like Itching. More than 30 per cent people Scabis, utricaria and eczema are found in most of the palients. Besides, scabis is spreading alarmingly all-over the district after recession of flood water. Skin diseases are found in carneal stage, princkle and basal stage. The disease is a contagious one as it is contracted by intimate contact with the infected individuals.

According to hospital sources, about 150 patients suffering from eye and skin diseases are being treateed every day in each thana hospital including Netrakona Modern Hospital. Besides, local medical practitioners have been treating on average 15 to 20 patients in a day.

Besides, veneral diseases like gonorrhea and congenital syphilis are also found in bodies of many people. The diseases are so serious and complicated that thorough examination of patients by sophisticaed medical equipments which are not available here, according to local doctors.

Eye and skin diseases are spreading rapidly for want of preventive and curative measures. Curative medicines are not available at the local markets and chairtable dispensaries incluidng hospitals, it is widely alleged. As a result, the patients are suffering greatly.

Necessary steps should be taken imemdiately to combat the disease.

four are to be set up at Baro Bazar, Hatgopalpur, Dakbangla and Barokestapur of the district.

"The sooner these police stations are set up, the better for the peace-loving people of the

area", he said. UNB reports from Khulna: Five members of an outlawed political party were arrested along with arms and ammunition from a residence at Kaminibasi village in Dakope thana on Wednesday night.

They were identified as Rahmat Ali Gazi alias Kamrul, 30, Shibpad Kabiraj, 41, Brozen Titadar, 30, Bibretibala, 25, and Sontosh Mondol of Purba Banglar Communist Party.

On information, police raided the village at the about 3 am and arrested the outlaws along with one rifle and a bul-

APB reports from Jessore: The proposal for setting up of 16 new thanas, four outposts and 12 police investigation centres in 10 southern districts has been lying shelved for about a decade now.

The district administrations of Jessore, Jhenidah, Narail. Kushtia and Meherpur had proposed the setting up of these thanas and other installations in view of the rising incidence of crime, terrorism and killing in the region, official sources

The proposed thanas are Khajura, South Kotwali. Bankra and Rajganj in Jessore. Jhaudia, Mathurapur and Po-radaha in Kushtia, Mujibnagar in Meherpur, Naragati, Gobra and Chhatrohajari in Narail and Dakbungalow, Barbazar, Keshtapur and Haat Gopalpur in Jhenidah district.

The proposed outposts are to be set up at Sanyashibazar in Bagerhat, Baroipara and Ferryghat in Narail and Talbaria in Kushtia district.

The planned investigation centres are Baganchara in Jessore, Chulkathi Bazar and Poolerhat in Bagerhat, Barodia and Rupganj in Narail, Khol-ishakundi in Kushtia and Titudaha, Khas Koiba, Darshana and Luxmipur in Chuadanga district.

Although preliminary works on setting up of these units had begun after the proposal was made by the concerned district administrations, no further progress has been made till date, sources informed.

APB adds from Khulna: The harvesting of forest resources from the Sundarbans is facing a setback with an alarming rise in incidences of piracy in the areas during the recent months. Bawalis, Mowalis and oth-

ers, who earn their fivelihood working inside the Sundarbans. cannot enter the world's largest mangrove forest owing to stepped up activities of the pi-

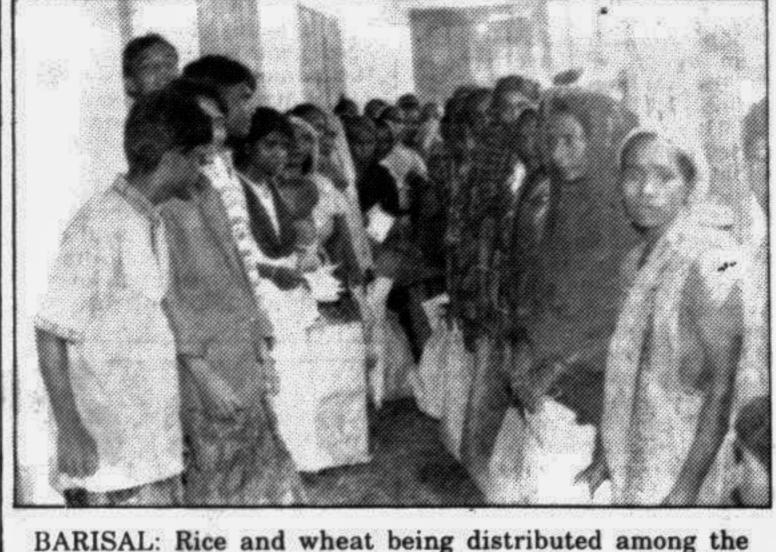
Using fast moving boats. they say, the thugs operate along the rivers and canals in forest areas like Shibsa. Sachia, Nangla, Aruashili. Gawakhali, Andharmanik, Salakmoni, Kamirchar and Mandarbaria under Khulna and Stakhira ranges.

Forest Department sources said that attacks by the wellarmed dacoits have increased in the areas over the last six months. The pirates kidnap fisher-

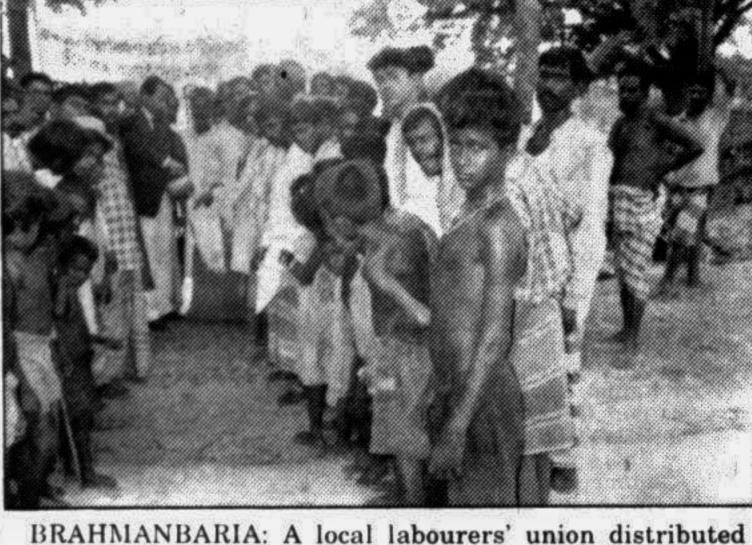
men, Bawalis and Mowalis. hold them hostages and free them on payment of ransom. The captives are often killed in case of failure to pay the demand



AGRI-VARSITY(Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Hussain presenting a crest to the Charge d'Affaires of the Royal Danish Embassy Finn Thilsted during his recent visit to the Bangladesh Agricultural - Star photo. University.



VGF card holders at Asmat Ali Master Primary School in Kaunia area of the divisional town. - Star photo.



relief materials recently among the flood affected people of the sadar thana. - Star photo.



FARIDPUR: Awami League leader Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain distributed recently relief goods among the flood victims of Char Madhabdia in the sadar thana. -Star photo.

Flood damaged roads hindering traffic movement

NARSINGDI, Nov 13: Most of the roads and highways in six thanas were damaged by the devastating floods.

The executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department here said the extent of damage is worth about Tk 20 The worst affected roads are:

Narsingdi-Demra road, Narsingdi-DS road, Narsingdi-Dhaka-Sylhet road, Narsingdi Madangani road, Panchdona-Palash-Charshingdur road Panchdona-Danga road and Panchdona-Motkhola road. Shibpur-Dulalpur via Lokhpur road, Jangishibpur-Raipura

road, Narsingdi-Chalakchar via Monohordi road and Panchdona-Charsingdur road were also ravaged by the floods. At least Tk 7 crore would be needed to repair the roads and highways temporarily, R&H officials said Local Government Engineer-

ing Department (LGED) sources here said about 474 kms of kutcha roads, 133 kms of pucca roads and 579 metres span of bridges and culverts were also damaged by the flood waters. Some 16 growth centres, 26

TTDC UP complexes and 224 educational institutions were badly affected by the flooding as well, said the LGED sources. The executive engineer of

LGED said the damaged roads and other infrastructures should be repaired immedi-

Local people, political leaders and truck owners in a joint statement recently have urged the authorities to sanction the amount required for repairing of the roads as early as possible for smooth plying of traffic.

UNB reports from Natore: The damage wrought by the devastating flood in the rural communication sector in the district may worth over Tk 150 Officials of Local Govern-

ment Engineering Department

here estimated that a total of Tk

7 crore 15.48 lakh will be

needed for the repair and reno-

vation of the roads, culverts and bridges in six thanas. A total of 704.23-km kutcha road, 15.8-km metalled road, 29

bridges and culverts were dam-

aged by the flood. Besides, 10 growth centres and 123 educational institutions of these thanas have also been repaired under this pro-

But, said the officials, there

is no allocation from the government for this purpose so far. The damages include 70.49km kutcha and 2-km metalled road, 15 metres bridges and culverts and 11 educational institutions in Sadar thana, 122.5km kutcha, 14-km metalled road, 4.6 metres bridge and 15 educational institutions in Baraigram, 20.55-km kutcha and 12.65-km metalled road. 1.5 metres culvert and 10 educational institutions in Gurudaspur, 12-km kutcha and one km metalled road, 5.8 metres culvert and 8 educational institutions in Bajitpur, 166.94-km kutcha and 14.40-km metalled road, 31 educational institutions in Shingra and 311.75km kutcha and 8.75-km metalled road, 40.94 metres bridge and culvert, one growth centre

and 48 educational institutions in Lalpur thanas. UNB reports from Jamalpur: The district council here has taken up a programme to repair and develop the roads, bridges and culverts seriously damaged during the recent flood.

Some 13 projects have been taken up by the council at a cost of Tk 69 lakh under Annual Development Assistance Fund programme. The projects include repair,

construction and reconstruc-

tion of roads, damaged brides

and culverts and development

of Dak-Bungalow. Officials said tenders of the works have already been floated and the projects are expected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

UNB reports from Lal-

monirhat: The flood damaged

road reconstruction works un-

der Food for Works programme are being hampered in the district due to want of adequate soil here. Official sources said a total

of 608 metric tons of wheat

have been allocated in five

thanas including Lalmonirhat pourashava against 433 projects under the test relief The earth works are being hampered as most of the fields beside the roads are filled with

'Aman' paddy causing obstruction of collection of soil. As a result, the wheat under the food for works cannot be distributed to face the severe

food crisis. Of the total, 209 metric tons of wheat were allotted against 96 projects in sadar, 97 mts against 93 projects in Aditmari, 100 mts against 89 projects in Kaliganj, 96 metric tons against 71 projects in Hatibandha, 91 mts against 72 projects in Patgram and 15 mts against 12 projects in Lalmonirhat

pourashava. Meanwhile, the government has also allocated 1,168 metric tons of wheat under Rural Infrastructure Maintenance project in the five thanas and the works are likely to be started from the middle of the current month.

APB reports from Chapainawabganj: Movement of vehicles have resumed on the Rajshahi-Nababganj-Sonamasjid highway with the completion of the first phase of the repair work.

the road by the Department of Roads and Highways will be completed in phases, departmental sources said. The road links the northern city with Sonamasjid, an important landport of the country. used for transportation of im-

ported goods like rice, pulse,

potato, onion, rocks, cement,

The reconstruction work of

coal and limestone from India. Over 30 kilometres of the 80kilometre-road were partially or completely damaged. Large stretches of the road were

washed away at five points during the flood. Vehicles are plying over five kilometres portion of the road at a great risk. It will take about six months

condition. The local and feeder roads of three districts Rajshahi, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj were also badly damaged. About 130 kilometres of

to bring the road to pre-flood

1.116 kilometres of roads, 25 bridges and culverts and two ferry ghats were damaged. Repair work was going on. Some 21 points of Rohonpur-Bholarhat road, six points of Kansat-Gomostapur-Porsa-

Sapahar road and three points

of Nawabganj-Uttara Mallik-

Gomostapur road of Cha-

painawabganj district were the worst affected. Two points of Naogaon-Atrai road, five points of Choumasia-Mohadevpur-Soraigachi road and some points of Patnitola-Dhamurhat and Naogaon-Badalgachi road of the Naogaon district also were

Besides, 16 points of Baneshwar-Charghat-Iswardi road and seven points of Puthta-Taherpur-Bagmara road of Rajshahi district were destroyed by the recent flood-

damaged.

The department hopes to make the rest of the damaged roads fit for plying of vehicles within another week. BSS reports from

Chuadanga: Four schemes have been implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department in all the four thanas of Chuadanga district in the current fiscal year at a cost of Taka 50.31 lakh. The implemented schemes

include maintenance of 3.5 kilometre Sarajganj-Hatboalia road in Chuadanga sadar thana, 11.03 kilometre Bhaliapur-Hatboalia road in Alamdanga thana, .35 kilometre Shantoshpur-Andulbaria road in Jibnnagar thana and six kilometre Damurhuda-Karpashdanga road in

Damurhuda thana. The schemes were implemented under the Rural Devel-

opment Project-18 of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). UNB reports from Pabna: Traffic movement in 38 roads in three districts under Roads and Highways Department is being hindered adversely due to

its dilapidated condition caused by the recent devastating flood. The R&H Department sources said the government has not yet allocated any fund to re-construct the damaged roads, bridges and culverts in Pabna, Sirajganj and Natore

districts. Under Pabna Roads and Highways Circle, the department has incurred a loss estimated at about Tk 34 crore due to the catastrophe. Vehicles cannot ply on sev-

eral routes as bridges and culverts at some points have not yet been re-constructed. The department sources said a total of 14 roads and highways each in Pabna and Sirajganj and another 10 in Natore districts have extensively been

damaged by the flood. Some 78-km roads in Pabna, 150-km in Sirajganj and nearly 100-km roads in Natore districts are in bad shape and the extent of loss has been estimated at Tk 17.30 core, Tk 6.80 crore and Tk 9.86 crore respec-

tively. The worst affected roads in Pabna district are 6-km Nagarbari-Natakhola approach road, 1.5-km Najirganj-Ferry ghat approach road, 6.9-km Iswardi-Lalpur-Bagha-Baneswar road and 8-km Iswardi-Kushtia road

In Sirajganj district, 13 points on Sirajganj-Kazipur road, three points on Enayetpur-Kaijuri, four points on Belkuchi-Kamarkhand, two points on Bhuigati-Nimgachhi, five points on Singra-Baruham and four points on Hatikumral-Sirajganj roads were damaged.

At five points on Bogra-Na-

tore road in Natore district were damaged while five points on Ahammadpur-Baraigram-Gurudaspur, four points on Singra-Baruham, three points on Banpara-Gopalpur-Lalpur road,

four points on Gurudaspur-Tarash were also damaged. R&H Executive Engineer said five roads will be heightened to protect from flood at a cost of Tk 53 crore.

They said no allocation has yet been made to repair the 85km flood control embankment. UNB reports from Bandarban: There is no headway in the

development of roads in the hill district due to inadequate allocation of fund in the sector. The maintenance and development work of the roads' here have been stalled seriously due to the fund shortage, admitted

an official of the Roads and Highways Department. There is no substantial improvement in the road sector even after 17 years of the formation of the district, said the

local people. Officials said there are seven main and 10 feeder roads under RHD in the district and the total length of the roads is about 600-

They said according to standard project profile, the roads need Tk 764.20 crore for the development works. Whereas the department received an allocation of only Tk 2.85 crore for the development of 10 feeder roads during the current fiscal

Only the feeder roads need over Tk 592.26 crore for their development work, said the officials.

There is no allocation this year for the construction and repair of two important bridges-Shangu bridge in Ruma and the damaged bridge at Keranihat in Bandarban, they Local people said they have

been facing serious problem in using a number of wooden bridge on some roads as these became old and worn out.