

Permanent solution to Monga demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press briefing yesterday demanded a permanent solution to Monga (a famine like situation) crisis in the northern region of the country.

They suggested some measures, including increasing production of crops, reducing the rate of toll at the

Jamuna Bridge by 50 percent and establishing fertiliser factory.

Uttarbango Jonokalyan Samity organised the press briefing on "Monga in the North, huge destruction by the recent flood and need for permanent solution" at the National Press Club in the city. Khandaker Azadur Rahman Peinge, president of

the Samity, presented a written statement.

Speakers said, although the contribution of northern region in agriculture is the largest, Monga is a regular phenomenon in that part of the country due to lack of infrastructure, industrial support and communication.

Meanwhile recent floods in Naogaon, Sirajganj, Kushtia, Panchagarh, Gaibandha, Nilfamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Joypurhat caused loss of crops worth Tk 2000 crore.

The government should immediately take steps for agricultural rehabilitation, reconstruction of roads including the linked canal of Tista Embankment, said the speakers.

Modabber Hossain, senior joint secretary and Tajul Islam, assistant president of the Samity, were also present at the briefing.

1,456 arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,456 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00pm yesterday.

During the period, police also recovered 14 firearms, four other weapons and 30 rounds of bullet, said a police headquarters' press release.