



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Andho Bikalanga Hawkers' Kalyan Samity takes out a white cane procession in the city yesterday to press its four-point demand. The event was organised to mark the World White Cane Safety Day.

Tk 626 cr Danish grant for dev in agri sector

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive Tk 626 crore in grant from Denmark for the development of its agricultural sector.

An agreement to this effect was signed here yesterday on the Agriculture Sector Programme Support Phase II (ASPS) under the Danish government's development assistance to the agriculture sector of Bangladesh.

ERD Secretary Md Ismail Zabihullah and Danish Ambassador to

Bangladesh Einar Hebogaard Jensen signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

The main objective of ASPS II is to improve the living conditions of the marginal and small farmers through enhanced, integrated and sustainable agricultural productivity.

The ASPS II address key strategic issues such as capacity development at the grassroots, district and national levels, focusing on a result-oriented and on-the-job training approach, promoting local government and decentralisation in agriculture, fisheries and livestock development and promotion of farmers organisation.

It is expected that at the end of ASPS II, at least 700,000 households would have been trained and increased their incomes from crops production by a minimum of 30 percent, poor households would have doubled their yield from fishery and livestock and at least 2.3 million labour days be generated in road works.

In ASPS I, more than 7,800 community-based organisations have been formed as Integrated Pest Management clubs with 200,000 members.

Nearly 500,000 people, mostly women, were employed in aquaculture and poultry sectors.

Bogra trader robbed of Tk 10 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

More than Tk 10 lakh was snatched from a business man in front of his house at Matidali Shaha Para area in Bogra town yesterday morning.

The victim, identified as Rabindranath Shah, was rushed to Bogra Mohammed Ali Hospital in a critical condition after he was shot by the muggers.

Spice trader Rabindranath said a gang of muggers intercepted him at gunpoint when he was coming from a bank riding on a bike. Earlier he failed to deposit the money since the bank was closed.

When he refused to hand over the money and tried to escape, a miscreant shot him and the gang fled with the money.

RU controversial staffs block highway

RU CORRESPONDENT

Controversially recruited employees of Rajshahi University yesterday blocked Dhaka-Rajshahi highway for an hour demanding regularisation of their jobs.

Due to the blockade, hundreds of highway vehicles queued on both sides of the road resulting in a huge traffic congestion.

The action committee leaders also staged a protest rally on the highway where Convener Rafiqul Islam Sader, Joint Conveners Zahurul Haque and Akkas Ali addressed.

They demanded that their jobs should be regularised within the tenure of the current government otherwise they will paralyse the university when it opens after Eid vacation.

They also called Rajshahi Workers Party leader Fazley Hossain Badshah to withdraw the case for the greater interest of the hundreds of unemployed people.