

Drought damages 40 pc crop in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Apr 12: About 40 per cent Irr-boro paddy plants were damaged by the persisting drought in greater Rangpur district, informed sources said, reports UNB.

Most of the waterbodies including beels, canals and ponds used as water reservoirs were dried due to prevailing drought hampering irrigation greatly.

The situation has aggravated further due to acute shortage of diesel. Many shallow and deep tubewells remained in-

operative for want of diesel. Everyday farmers return disappointed from the depots. They alleged that there are adequate stock of diesel, but the owners sell it to the black market at exorbitant prices.

According to official sources 6,01,708 acres of land were brought under Irr-boro cultivation this year in greater Rangpur including Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, and Nilphamari.

BSS adds: State Minister for

Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfur Rahman Khan Sunday told the Jatiya Sangsad that a total of 21,340 metric tons of wheat was allocated for 432 special projects under the Food for Work programmes in the current drought season.

He was replying to a question from Tajul Islam Mohammad Faruk (AL-Rajshahi).

The State Minister said the projects for allocating wheat had been selected as per the

rules of the Food for Works programmes.

Khan said the allocation was made in view of the recommendations of the ministers, state ministers, MPs and the demands of the Deputy Commissioners and the relevant government officials.

Replying to a question from A K M Jahangir Hossain (AL-Patuaakhal), Khan said a total of 69,697 metric tons of wheat was allocated so far in the current financial year under the test relief programme.

FAO-IJO plan to improve jute extraction

Food, and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and International Jute Organisation (IJO) have taken up a three-year regional project to improve retting and extraction of jute, reports UNB.

Six IJO member countries — Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand — will participate in the regional project, said IJO Executive Director Shamsul Haq Chisty.

IJO has allocated 895,000 US dollar for the project, he told the first meeting of the coordination committee of IJO/FAO project on 'Improved retting and extraction of jute'

that began in Dhaka Sunday. The long-term objective of the project is to develop low-cost improved techniques for jute and kenaf retting and fibre extraction or ribboning for the improvement of fibre quality.

It is also designed to demonstrate under field conditions to establish field work-thickness and to educate and train the growers in improved methods and techniques of fibre extraction, retting and grading.

The four-day meeting will review the present status of retting and fibre extraction technologies and related activities and facilities available in

different participating countries. It will also identify problems of economic significance that need to be addressed and develop a work-plan for the project, Chisty said.

Chaired by FAO representative PJ Myres, the inaugural session was addressed by Agriculture Secretary KM Rabbani, Jute Secretary in-charge M Akhtar Ali, chief technical advisor of FAO Dr. Anwar Ali and regional coordinator Dr. Zahidul Haq.

KM Rabbani said jute provides ten per cent employment in the country and more than 35 per cent of the total

population are involved in raising the crop. He pointed out that jute and allied fibre and processed jute goods account for about 35 per cent of the country's total foreign exchange earnings.

The Agriculture Secretary said improvement of retting practices should increase the return to the growers which is the main objectives of all research and development activities in jute and allied fibre.

Bangladesh will act as host to the project and its inter-country technical and administrative activities for three years with the possibility of further extension, he added.

44289 got job abroad from Jan to Mar

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told parliament Sunday that a total of 44,289 Bangladeshi workers got employment abroad from January to March this year, reports BSS.

The countries include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya, Bahrain and Oman, the minister said while replying to a question from Mohammad Golam Rabbani (BNP-Joybarhat).

Replying to a question from A K M Abu Taher (BNP-Comilla), the minister said the government had earned Tk 5,80,18,100 from April 1984 to June 1991 through Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited.

Technological development seen a must for progress

Education Minister Zamir uddin Sircar Sunday underscored the need for scientific and technological development for overall socio-economic uplift of the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) at its auditorium in Dhaka.

The minister said a nation could not flourish without scientific research and development. He said, our scientists are equally talented as those of the developed countries but could not contribute much for want of necessary facilities and incentives.

Recalling the contributions of late Dr Muhammad Qudrat-e-Khuda, the Founder Director of BCSIR laboratories, for development of scientific research in the country, Sircar said Dr Khuda was our pride for his talent and scientific pursuits.

Referring to the demands of the scientists for promotion, new recruitment training of the working scientists, modernisation of the laboratories and creation of housing facilities the minister said that these would be duly looked into.

State Minister for Education Principal M Eunus Khan, Chairman of BCSIR Dr M Waliuzzaman, and General Secretary of the Scientists' Association M Jonab Ali also spoke on the occasion.

President of the association Hoane Ara Khan presided.

53 Indian cattleheads seized

BOGRA, Apr 12: Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in separate raids seized 53 Indian cattle worth about Tk four lakh while being smuggled into the country, reports UNB.

BDR raided the border area in Dupchanda upazila of the district on April 8 and recovered 31 cattlehead.

In another raid on April 1, BDR seized 22 smuggled cows from the Kakrai border area in Badalgachi upazila of Naogaon district.

The cattlehead were handed over to Santahar customs, BDR sources said.

Cases were filed with the respective police stations in this connection.



Sale of palm leaf fans among those poor city dwellers who can't afford electric fans has got a little boost as the heatwave is sweeping the city like elsewhere. A vendor of the indigenous fans was moving around a poor part of the city yesterday. — Star photo

Investors alerted against risk in Chinese shares

HONG KONG, Apr 12: The Hong Kong government securities watchdog warned potential investors here of the high risks involved in investing in 'B' shares offered by stock markets in China, reports AFP.

Robert Nottle, Acting Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC), urged potential investors to read the offer document carefully before making an investment in China's two official fledgling stock markets in neighbouring Shenzhen and Shanghai.

There are high risks involved in investing in any newly emerging market, Nottle said. It is important that investors be aware of these and are prepared to accept such risks.

However, the SFC said it had decided to authorize funds with a policy of investing in China's 'B' shares after receiving applications from banking and financial institutions here appointed by Chinese authorities to sell the shares in the territory.

About a dozen companies have been listed in Shenzhen while seven others are waiting to have scrip issued.

Shenzhen's capitalization is just over 1.5 billion dollar, more than double that of Shanghai.

Price Index

Essentials		April 12	
RICE (Taka per kg)	2.50-3.00	Basma (Chapa)	2.50-3.00
Annar/finer	15.50-17.00	Dano	45.00-55.00
Payam	14.50-15.50	OIL (Taka per Htra)	
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	7.50-8.00	Mustard	52.00-54.00
Posato (local)	7.50-8.00	Soyabean	37.00-38.00
Brijal	3.00-5.00	Cocunut (Colombo)	90.00-95.00
Karolla	8.00-10.00	Vegetable Ghee (1kg)	48.00-50.00
Lalshak	4.00-5.00	SPICES (Taka per kg)	
Pappa	5.00-6.00	Onion (local)	7.00-8.00
Green Banana (Four Pieces)	4.00-5.00	Garlic (local)	22.00-24.00
OTHER FOODGRAIN (Taka per kg)		Chillies (dry)	65.00-70.00
Flour	14.00-15.00	Chillies (Round)	55.00-60.00
Aria	11.50-12.00	Green chillies	48.00-50.00
FISH (Taka per kg)		Ginger	14.00-14.00
Rahu (big)	140.00-150.00	Cinnamon (10gm)	3.00-4.00
Katia (big)	100.00-110.00	Cardamom (10gm) (small)	7.00-8.00
Haha	90.00-100.00	Iltre (50gms)	7.00-8.00
Panga	110.00-120.00	MILK (Two kgns)	
Shamp (big)	90.00-110.00	Dano	295.00-296.00
Sing	90.00-120.00	Red-Cow	297.00-298.00
Koi	100.00-120.00	MISCELLANEOUS (Taka per kg)	
MEAT		Chico	220.00-240.00
Beef	55.00-60.00	Sah	7.00-7.50
Mutton	80.00-85.00	Sugar	27.00-28.00
CHICKEN			
Large	70.00-72.00		
Moderate	74.00-76.00		
Small	78.00-80.00		
TEA			
Dust (Plain)	70.00-80.00		
EGG (4 pool)			
Hen	10.00-10.50		
Duck	10.00-10.50		
Fern	10.00-10.50		
FULLES (Taka per kg)			
Kawla	28.00-30.00		
Mush	28.00-30.00		
Mough	24.00-25.00		
Chidola	24.00-25.00		
Khasri	15.00-16.00		
FRUITS			
Green Coconut (Small)	6.00-7.00		
Watermelon (Large)	30.00-45.00		
Cocunut (Large)	8.00-10.00		
Banana (Sugar) (Large)	12.00-13.00		

Hides & Skin

(Wet/Salted)		(Taka per 100 pieces)	
One	12000.00	—	30,000.00
Call	8000.00	—	20,000.00
Light	6000.00	—	15,000.00
Medium	4000.00	—	10,000.00
Heavy	2000.00	—	5,000.00
Very heavy	8000.00	—	20,000.00
Rejected	25000.00	—	35000.00
One	11000.00	—	12000.00
Big & heavy	11000.00	—	12000.00
Light & Medium	9000.00	—	10,000.00
Rejected	8500.00	—	9,500.00
Sheep	8700.00	—	9,000.00
Buffalo	85000.00	—	60,000.00

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berthing Position & Performance of Vessels as on 12/4/92					
Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving	Cargo
J/1	Dekhoda(E/L)	SSL	11/4	14/4	
J/2	Banglar Gourab	BSC	23/3	13/4	GI
J/3	Adria	SSL	30/3	15/4	CR
J/4	Safina-e-Haider	ASLJ	2/4	15/4	GI/GL
J/5	AFU Anand	NISHAT	31/3	20/4	Coke/Pease
J/6	NGS Ranger	BDSHIP	8/4	12/4	Cont
J/8	Banglar Urmil	BSC	6/4	13/4	GI
J/9	Banglar Sampad	BSC	R/A	14/4	Wheat
J/10	Laah Barge(4 No.)				
J/11	Kota Buana	CTS	9/4	13/4	Cont
J/12	Golden Fish	BSC	27/3	15/4	MOP
J/13	Al-Tafair	KSL	R/A	13/4	Wheat
MPB/2	Hang Fook	BRIGHT	1/4	14/4	Cement
CGJ	Samudra Raj	SSL	18/3	15/4	Repair
GSJ	Amittie	SSL	8/4	12/4	Wheat
TSP:	Platon	SST	10/4	18/4	R. Phos
RM/3	Anax Puma	JF	11/4	14/4	Tallow
RM/4	Continent-1	CLA	10/4	16/4	Repair
RM/5	Banglar Joyti	BSC	R/A	12/4	C Oil
RM/6	Erville	MSPL	9/4	12/4	Lub Oil
DDJ/1	Enduren Sea	EOSL	25/1	20/4	Repair
DDJ/2	Banglar Marnata	BSC	26/2	15/4	Repair
RM/8	Laurel Star	BML	14/2	15/4	Repair
RM/9	Banglar Swarna	BSC	R/A	15/4	Repair

Tanker Due

Name of Vessels	Local Agent	Date of Agent	Last Port	Cargo
Stolt Synthes	SEACOM	7/4		CDGO

Vessels at Kutubdia

Matterhorn	DSL	8/4		C.Oil
Banglar Shourab	BSC	R/A		C.Oil

Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Ready on

Dimitry Poluyan(E/L)	CT	12/4		E/L
Ronjay Victory	H&H	7/4	Sing	Cement
Pionara	MSA	4/4		Salt
Banglar Aaha	BSC	R/A(7/4)		Wheat
Weacr Star	BDSHIP	11/4	Cal	Cont

Vessels not ready

Hang Wan	H&H	7/4	Sing	Cement
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Vessels Awaiting Instruction

Banglar Kiron	BSC	R/A(6/4)		
Coplapo		12/4		

Vessels not Entering

Alym	ALAMIN	R/A(18/9)	Sing	Cement
Red Deer	OTL	R/A(26/11)	Sing	Sing
Hang Tone	H&H	31/3	Mong	Scrapping
Allissaa	H&H	18/3	Pada	Cement
Sea Progress	AML	R/A		Cement
Olympic Phoenix	BHL	R/A		
Liberty Beele	KSL	8/4		Wheat
Moun Sabana	AML	31/3		C.Bales
Thomana	JF	9/4	Rio	Scrapping
Al Tabith	KSL	R/A(11/4)		Wheat

Vessels due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Cargo	Local Agent	Loading
Andrian Goncharov	13/4	Sing	Cont	CT	Sing
Eastern Breeze	13/4	Sing	Cont	RSSA	Sing
Ever Cheer	13/4	Sing	Cont	BDSHIP	Cal
Cathya	13/4	Sing	Cont	GI	PROG
Shazzan	13/4	Sing	Sulphur	AGUA	Sing
Fong Yun	14/4	Sing	Cont	BDSHIP	Sing
Ahlers Breeze	14/4	Col	Cont	RSL	Col
Robert-e-Lec	15/4	Laah	KARNA	USA Ports	USA Ports
Vishva Parjat	15/4	E/L	SSL	UIC Ports	Sing
NGS Ranger	16/4	Mong	Cont	BDSHIP	Sing
Mandiri	16/4	Col	Cont	RSL	Sing
Arunachal Pradesh	16/4	Col	GI	SSL	Far East, Japan
Infinity	16/4	Sing	Cont	RSL	Sing
Silver Sea	17/3	GI	PROG		
Sidi Bishar	17/4		MMI		Suez
Orient Venture	17/4		BSA		Sing
I. Yamburashin	17/4		Cont		Sing
CGM Bretagne	20/4	Cal	Cont	BDSHIP	Sing
New Genlord	20/4		Cont	BDSHIP	Sing
Zang Sen	23/4	R. Phos	TSLL		Sing
Petr Sirostsin	24/4	Sing	Cont	CT	Sing
Elbella-IV	25/4	GI/GL	ASLJ		Sing
Safar	25/4	GI	ASLJ		Sing
Al-Salma	25/4	GI/GL	ASLJ		Sing
Optima	3/5	Sing	Cont	RSL	Sing

Mongla Port

Berthing Position & Performance of Vessels as on 11/4/92

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L-Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Depart.
J/6	Eastern Breeze	Ballast	Ctg	RRS	13/2	
J/7	Samudra Semrat	Exp	Ctg	Madhumati	9/4	
J/8	Banglar Robi	GI	Ctg	BSC	4/4	
J/9	Sapla Everest	J.Goods	Ctg	Everett	11/4	
MB-1	Summit Venture	Wheat	Ctg	BSC	30/3	
MB-2	Al-Swamuz	Exp	Ctg	ATLAS	23/3	
MB-3	Sea Tradition	Cement	Indon	AEKA	7/4	
MB-4	Vigorous Swan	Ferri	Ctg	AGT	1/4	
MB-5	Hang Shin	Soda	Ctg	PIONEER	8/4	
6/A	Tanary Star	Cement	Ctg	G. LAND	8/4	
7/A	Ronjay Choomic	Cement	Ctg	SHAWAN	29/3	
S/1	Al Rahman	Cement	Indon	MAKH	7/4	
S/2	Darien	Exp	Ctg	RRS	21/9	
S/3	Oryx	Salt	Ctg	AGT	11/9	
S/4	Flye-1	Cement	Ctg	PARAGON	29/3	
S/6	Jalagadavari	Cement	Indon	SSL		
N/4	Argos	Exp	Colombo	BRDS	7/4	

Vessels sailed on 9/4/92 to 11/4/92

01	Continent-1	W.Pulps			8/4	9/4
02	Dimitry Poluyan	Jute			28/3	9/4
03	Banglar Kallol	Exp			2/4	9/4
04	Ocean Earth	Cement			27/3	9/4