

**District roundup**

**CHANDPUR**

**Fish production declining**

Aug 11: Fish production in Chandpur district has declined despite having a large number of water areas and favourable condition.

According to Fisheries Department, annual production of fish in the district has come down to about 5 thousand metric tons as against the minimum requirement of about 15 thousand metric tons. There are about 10 thousand ponds, one hundred miles of rivers and 80 miles of canals in the district.

It is alleged that frequent out break of fish diseases and unabated use of current nets and catching of fish-fry are responsible for declining fish production.

About 3 thousand ponds, rivers, canals are silted. Real fisher men are denied financial assistance. Due to these problems, a large section of traditional fishermen have given up their profession. A couple of years ago, there were about 30 thousand fishermen in the district. The number of fishermen now stand at only 15 thousand.

**BHOLA**

**Scheme for aman cultivation**

Aug 11: A scheme has been taken up to bring about 3.58 lakh acres of land under transplant Aman cultivation in the district in the current season, reports UNB.

According to Bangladesh agriculture Extension Department, 1.63 lakh acres will be brought under high yielding variety and 1.95 lakh acres under local variety.

It is estimated that after the successful implementation of the programme over 2.80 lakh metric tons of Aman paddy would be produced in the district.

**GAIBANDHA**

**Training course on office management**

Aug 11: A three-day long training programme under the auspices of National Management at local BD Hall concluded on August 5.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Abdur Razaque, Deputy Commissioner, Gaibandha.

Those who spoke on the occasion were Mostaque Ahmed Khandker, Faculty member of the Institute, Abdul Aziz, ADC (Gen), Dr. A.K.M. Shamsuddin, Civil Surgeon, Rafiqul Islam and Mrs. Sonali Begum, Chairmen. All most all the chairmen joined the training course.

**SYLHET**

**Diarrhoea claims 4 lives**

Aug 11: Diarrhoea has claimed four lives in Gowainghat thana of the district during the last few days. The victims include three minor children and one old man.

According to the reports, four persons namely, Md. Haris Ali (55), Rais Ali (6), Mohammad (3) and child of one Abdul Majid of the village Islampur died of the disease during the last week. More than fifty others were also suffering from the different diarrhoeal diseases in the areas.

The supply of Oral saline and other medicines through the local health centre is also quite unsatisfactory, it is alleged. Besides, the common people are being cheated by a section of the medicine traders.

It may be mentioned here that there has been an acute scarcity of pure drinking water in the area. The villagers have to suffer a lot in collecting pure drinking water from the safe places. Besides, most of the government tubewells had been lying out of order for long time.

**JHENIDAH**

**Woman gives birth triplets**

Aug 11: A young mother gave birth to triplets for the first time here in Shafiqkupa health complex on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to doctors, mother Arshi Begum (23) of Kazipara village and her three mile babies are well now.

Rejaul Karim, a businessman, while expressing his reaction said he was happy to see the new born male babies.

**AGRI-VARSITY**

**VC inaugurates fish fry release programme**

Aug 11: The Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan inaugurated a programme of fish fry release in various ponds under BAU fish farm by releasing eighteen thousand carp fries in the I.K.Hall lake recently, says a press release.

In his inaugural speech on the occasion the Vice-Chancellor termed fish as the gold of our country and urged upon the fishery scientists to take effective steps in boosting up of fish production by way of popularising scientific culture of fish.

A large number of students and the Dean and the teachers of the faculty of fisheries attended the function.

Press release adds: The ten-day study tour for the final year B.Sc.A. H. (Hons) students under the faculty of Animal Husbandry of BAU for the session 1988-89 will begin on August 11. Dr. M. Sadullah, Professor and Head of the department of General Animal Science and Dr. M. Ashraf Ali, Associate Professor in the department of Poultry Science will guide the participating students. The team will visit various training institutes, dairy and poultry farms and tannery and processing plants of the country.

**BARISAL**

**First yr MBBS classes from Aug 20**

Aug 11: Classes of first year M.B.B.S. course of the 1991-92 session of the Sher-E-Bangla Medical College of Barisal will start from August 20, reports BSS.

The students who have to themselves admitted into the college have been advised to come and attend class accordingly.

**PABNA**

**Distribution of khas land demanded**

Aug 11: More than 3,000 peasants staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office here today demanding distribution of 'khas' land among the landless, reports UNB.

Wearing red cap on their head and holding stick in hand the farmers came from Chatmohar thana of the district and submitted a memorandum to the DC. They demanded that authorities take immediate steps to distribute 1,500 bighas of khas land of Bil Kuralia in Chatmohar thana among the landless farmers.

The demonstrators also held a rally near the DC office, which was addressed, among others, by general secretary of district Workers Party Nazrul Islam, and leaders of Khetmajur Samity Ataur Rahman Rana, Hasibur Rahman Hasu and Kazi Alam.

**KURIGRAM**

**Beggars on rise**

Aug 11: Beggars are on the rise in the town here creating much inconveniences to the dwellers.

Sources said, the beggars, mostly floating people affected by the natural visitations, are pouring in to the town in large numbers from rural areas with hopes of better earnings.

Dwellers complained that with this on rush, various infectious diseases have broken out.

Many of them are regularly seen responding to nature's call in open drains and on walkways polluting the environment.

It is alleged that many of the women beggars have resorted to prostitution for bare sustenance giving rise to the anti-social activities in the town.

Concerned circles apprehended that unless they were rehabilitated, the influx of these morbid and moribund people to the town would continue. They suggested, construction of vagrant centres at the outskirts of the town for their accommodation and income generating schemes to ameliorate their sufferings.



SYLHET: Aftab Chowdhury, a renowned social worker is distributing saplings among different organisations of the locality. Jahirul Hoque Chowdhury, Editor, Daily Sylhet Bani also seen in the picture.

**Food crisis prevailing all over Barguna district**

BARGUNA, Aug 11: Food crisis has been prevailing all over the district causing further increase in prices of essentials, reports UNB.

Government has recently introduced open market sale operation here but the quantity of rice is too meagre to meet the requirements.

Rice is being sold between Taka 15 and 17 per kg in different hats and bazars here. Poor people are the worst sufferers of the situation.

On the other hand, poor farmers are in trouble as the price of fertilizer has shot up abnormally. One bag urea is being sold at Taka 330 as against Taka 270 and one bag TSP is being sold at Taka 385 as against Taka 300.

Local leaders alleged that some fertilizer dealers in collaboration with a section of dishonest officials are creating artificial crisis in the market.

Frequent power breakdown has been disrupting normal life of the people hampering production in mills and factories here, local leaders alleged.

Traders, hospital patients and students are the worst suf-

ferers and domestic electronic gadgets are being damaged.

Power shutdown for two to three hours a day has become a normal phenomenon. The town plunges into darkness almost after every sundown due to power breakdown giving rise to anti-social activities, they said.

The traders complaint that they are to incur a heavy loss due to loadshedding and power failure.

An engineer said, the district needs 19 megawatt of electricity to meet the demand while there is supply of only 15 megawatt.

Blacksmiths of the district have been facing manifold problems in pursuing their ancestral vocation for a long time.

According to sources, inputs like firewood, coal, iron and chemicals have become expensive compelling them to give up their work.

Blacksmiths used to produce agricultural implements like axes, daos and nails. But due to fund shortage and absence of bank loan, they are unable to continue with the cottage industry.

A large number of blacksmiths in sadar, Amtali, Bamna, Begati and Patharghata thanas have already given up their profession, and have turned to begging or day labourers, the sources said.

District pourashava has decided to plant 2,000 saplings in the town during the current rainy season.

Addressing a discussion meeting on "Role of pourashava dwellers in tree planting campaign" organised by the pourashava, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Mosharrif Hossain said the programme had been taken up under the current nation-wide environmental protection drive launched by the government.

He said the pourashava would set up seven pounds in the town for stray cattle which destroy saplings.

Speakers at the meeting said the tree planting now turned into "social movement" must be carried on to maintain ecological balance.

The ADC called upon the local people to cooperate with the pourashava to make the tree planting programme a success.

**Notes from Agri-varsity**

AGRI-VARSITY, Aug 11: As a part of the national tree plantation campaign '92, a function was held at the Satrapur Govt Primary School on August 4 under the auspices of ADAB and 12 other NGOs of Mymensingh, says a Press release.

Under this programme, a total of 1050 saplings of mahogany, guava and jackfruit trees was distributed free of cost among 150 families of Boyra village worsty affected by tornado of April 22.

The Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan while speaking as chief guest in the function stated that a tree was the greatest resort in the sustenance of natural and ecological balance on the earth.

**BAU Ladies' Club indoor competition**

The inauguration of annual indoor competitions of the Ladies' Club of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) was held at the club premises recently. Prof Dr Lutfun Hossain, Vice-President of Ladies' Club inaugurated the competition.

On this occasion, an attractive cultural variety styled as "Barsha Mangal" (invoking the blessings of rain) was presented by the juvenile artists of BAU campus.

It was participated by Kankon, Iva, Putul, Lima, Nipa, Soma and Ritma in vocal songs and Annie, Nitra and Dona in recitations and Setu and Nitra in dance performances. It's music and choreography were composed by Mrs. Tasalli Mahboob and Ustad Jogesh Das respectively. Tabla was played by Makhon, while the presentation was made by Purba.

**Condolence meet held**

A condolence meeting in remembrance of Late Md. Ismail, former Assistant Registrar of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) was held at the Administration Building of BAU recently.

Arranged under the auspices of the officers and employees of Registry section, the function was presided over by the Registrar A H Khan and it was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan as the chief guest.

The Treasurer of BAU Alhaj MZ Islam, the Dean of the faculty of Veterinary Science Prof AWM Shamsul Islam, Librarian AG Dewan, Asstt. Registrar M Mojibur Rahman, the Secretary of Employees' Association, the President of Employees' Parishad and many others spoke in the meeting.

This was followed by a Milad Mahfil.

It may be mentioned that M. Ismail (50) was attacked by cardiac arrest and breathed his last on July 20.

**Training course on admn. held**

The concluding session of a two-week long training programme on "Administration, Office Management and Human Relations" arranged under the auspices of Graduate Training Institute (GTI) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), was held at the GTI dormitory recently.

THE session was presided over by Prof M Mostafizur Rahman, Director of GTI and it was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan as the chief guest and the Registrar AH Khan and Treasurer Alhaj MZ Islam as the special guests.

The function was addressed by the special guests and the Director of BAU Extension Centre Prof. A Halim.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 21 Section Officers or their equivalents took part in the training programme as trainees. Thirty five courses were offered by a team of 17 specialists. Mrs S Halima Anwar and M. Nazrul Islam of GTI acted as course coordinators of the programme.

**Seminar on wide crosses in wheat**

A seminar on "Advances in wide crosses in wheat - Decade of Progress" was held at the seminar room of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) library recently under the sponsorship of Central Seminar Committee of BAU. Dr Mujeeb A Kazi, Head of the wheat wide cross division of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, Mexico was the key-note speaker of the seminar.

In his presentation Dr Kazi highlighted elaborately the intergeneric, inter-specific, diagnostic and polyhaploidy techniques of wide cross in wheat including their applications and results.

The seminar was presided over by Prof Monawar Ahmed, Director of BAURES and it was attended by a large number of teachers, researchers and graduate-students of BAU including the scientists of the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture.

**Tk 30.65 cr for rural uplift of 6 dists**

FARIDPUR, Aug 11: Government has sanctioned Taka 30.65 crore for rural infrastructural development in six districts under rural development project-4 during the current financial year, reports UNB.

The districts are: Kurigram, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

An official source said here that the programme will include construction of 40 km HBB roads; 21 bridges, 3 culverts, development of 30 village markets, maintenance of, 2182 km village roads.

Project Director Nurul Islam said several irrigation schemes would also be extended to bring 15500 acres of land under irrigation network.

Savings in the district have crossed the target forming a total capital of Taka 6.48 crore

out of individual savings during the last fiscal year.

The amount is 3.23 crore higher than the target which was fixed at Taka 3.25 crore. The achievement was about 199.53 per cent.

The amount could be raised by concerted efforts, motivation and personal contacts, officials of the local National Savings Department said.

The investment had been made in the form of Saving Certificate, Wage Earner Department Bond, Prize Bond, Post Office Savings Account, Postal Life Insurance and Saving Stamp.

The department, meanwhile, has taken up a programme to form "Small Savings Association" to create awareness and habit of savings among the people specially the younger section of the society.

**Nationalisation 77 non-govt pry schools demanded**

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Aug 10: Fate of about 35,000 primary school students of 77 non-government primary schools of four thanas of Chuadanga district are uncertain now due to acute shortage of educational appliances and other problems.

Most of the 77 non-government primary schools of the district have been facing shortage of benches, blackboards, chairs and other materials necessary for uses in the classrooms. They have also no funds.

Most of the non-government primary schools have no pucca house. Most of them have thatched houses. These dilapidated houses may collapse at any time or blown away by the storm.

Sometimes, the teachers, local people and the guardians become frustrated when they find no academic atmosphere in the schools.

The concern authorities pay a lum-sum of Taka 500/00 only for every teacher per month which is too poor to support a teacher and which is also very irregular.

Expressing concern at the deteriorating situation of the primary schools, guardians and

local people have urged upon the government to nationalise the 77 non-government primary educational institutions of the district which they believe would solve the existing problems.

The academic atmosphere in the Chuadanga and Darsana government colleges of Chuadanga district are being hampered owing to various problems including shortage of teachers, classrooms, hostels and laboratories facilities.

In Chuadanga Government Degree College, 21 posts of teachers including two demonstrator are lying vacant.

The posts of teachers which are now lying vacant are two posts in English Department, one in Bengali, two in Economics, three in Physics, three in Islamic History, three in Philosophy, two in Political Science, two in Accountancy and in Chemistry and two Demonstrator.

Besides, a good number of posts of teaching staff in local government boys and girls high schools have also been lying vacant for the last two years. As a result the student of the two schools have suffering much.

**23,500 tons of foodgrains remain unsold**

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 11: About 23,500 tons of foodgrains remained unsold in nine godowns of the district, Food Department sources said, reports UNB.

The foodgrains including 17,000 tons of rice and 6,500 tons of wheat remained unsold due to its high prices fixed by the government.

Local people complained that the foodgrains were being sold at a price higher than the existing market price in the district.

It is also learnt that a large quantity of foodgrains has already been damaged in the godowns due to pest attack and lack of maintenance.

The CID police charge sheeted four persons including a Union Parishad Chairman in connection with Haider Ali murder case on Saturday.

Haider Ali, manager, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan bank, Tarash Branch was kidnapped on October 11, 1991 from his office by some miscreants. They also looted Taka 37,000 from the bank.

Police arrested some bank employees in this connection. Police recovered the body of Ali on November 14, from a gunny bag. Later, the case was transferred to CID police.

After investigation and recording statements of 49 witnesses CID police submitted the charge sheet against four persons including Talim UP Chairman Abul Kashem, Bank Cashier Abul Kaiser and guard Abdur Razaque.

**Three roads, 3 bridges constructed**

RAJSHAHI, Aug 11: The Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB) has constructed three semipucca roads with total length of 18.5 kilometre and three bridges at a cost of about Taka five crore in the district in the last fiscal year under Rural Development Project-7, reports BSS.

Taka 3.90 crore has been spent for the construction of roads while Taka one crore for the bridges.

Of the roads, the 9.7 kilometre long Duari-Kashimbazar Road under Paba and Tanore thana has been constructed with an expenditure of Taka 2.25 crore, 4.8 kilometre long Puthia-Aranihat Road under Puthia and Bagha thana at a cost of Taka 75 lakh and 4 km long Durgapur-Belgharia Road under Durgapur thana at a cost of Taka 90 lakh.

**Naval unit deployed to curb piracy**

BARISAL, Aug 11: Government has deployed a naval unit along the coastal belts of Bay of Bengal to curb the increasing piracy, official sources here said, reports UNB.

The move was taken in view of the persisting demand of the deep sea fishing community to ensure their security and safety in carrying out their profession.

Mentionable that the fishermen community in the area went on a wild cat strike recently to press home their demand for deployment of naval unit in the coastal areas to save them from the hand of pirates.

The pirates looted fish, fishing materials and a number of trawlers in the recent past worth about crores of taka and a large number of fishermen were injured by them. More than 8,500 acres of

khas land have been distributed among the landless people of the district.

Of the total about 3,400 acres of land was distributed in Sadar, 1,400 in Bakerganj, 300 in Ustapur, 310 in Babuganj, 136 in Agailjhara, 1300 in Mehdiaganj, 700 in Muladi, 115 in Gowanadi, 700 in Hitala and 500 in Banaripara thana.

The land have been distributed among 7000 landless families of the district.

**120 arrested in Sirajganj since Aug 1**

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 11: Police during anti-crime drive on Saturday night arrested 20 people from different places of the district, police said, reports UNB.

**Erosion of Padma, Jamuna 25,000 homeless in two districts**

MANIKGANJ, Aug 11: The continued erosion by two mighty rivers Padma and Jamuna has devoured vast areas in Daulatpur and Harirampur thanas leaving about 10,000 people homeless during last the fortnight, reports UNB.

Water Development Board sources said the surging rivers eroded about five square kilometres of cultivable land and rendered over 3,000 families shelterless during the period.

The Harirampur TNO said Bagmara, Mohammadpur, Badakandi, Bahadurpur and Modhakandi villages totally and eight other villages were partially eroded and about 1600 families lost their homes.

The Water Development Board officials said in Daulatpur thana over 14000 families in nine villages of Ziyampur and Bagutta unions were rendered homeless.

Local MP Harun-or-Rashid Khan, Deputy Commissioner Mortaza Hossain Munshi and BNP district unit secretary Razzak visited the affected areas recently and distributed relief materials among the victims.

Earlier report adds: Some 600 families of eight villages in Bera and Sujaganar thanas were rendered homeless due to erosion by the surging

Jamuna and Padma Tuesday. Bera Thana Nirbahi Officer said the erosion by the rivers took a serious turn due to rise in water levels of the rivers.

About 300 erosion hit families have already taken shelter on the flood control embankment, officials said.

The affected villages are:

**3.94 lakh kg HYV seeds distributed**

RANGPUR, Aug 11: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has sold 3 lakh 94 thousand kg of High Yielding Variety aman seeds among the farmers in five districts of greater Rangpur this season, reports UNB.

Official sources said, of the total seeds, 2 lakh 50 thousand kg was sold in Rangpur, 73 thousand kg in Gaibandha, 52 thousand kg in Nilphamari, 13 thousand kg in Kurigram and 6 thousand kg in Lalmonirhat districts.

A total of 13,84,655 acres of land in the districts have been brought under aman farming and it is expected that about 5 lakh 50 thousand metric tons of aman paddy will be produced.

Nakalia, Bijoygonj, Serasia, Madhupur, Raksha of Bera thana and Shakgonj and Najirgonj of Sujaganar thana.

Meanwhile, local administration has distributed Taka 50,000 and three metric tons of wheat among the erosion victims.

A report from Pabna says: At least 15,000 people of seven thanas of greater Pabna district were rendered homeless on account of erosion by the river Padma and Jamuna over the last three months.

According to officials sources, five primary schools, three madrasas, one college, one thana headquarters, eight mosques, 11 government offices and three commercial banks have already been eroded by the river Jamuna.

The existence of Nagarbari ferryghat, Kotwali Pump Station, Belkuchi College and Sirajganj jail have also been threatened by the erosion.

The worst affected thanas are: Bera, Sujaganar, Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar Belkuchi and Chowhal.

About 12,000 people took shelter on flood control embankment. Most of them are passing their days almost without food.



RIVER EROSION: A view of the erosion of the river Padma.