

Fertilizer scarcity may hit IRRI-boro farming

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 2: Scarcity of fertilizer may hit the IRRI and boro crop farming in the district during the current season.

Triple super Phosphate (TSP) is now being sold at Taka 400 against the fixed rate of Taka 363 per 50-kg bag. Muriate of Potash (MP) is also selling at Taka 325 against the government rate of Taka 257 per bag.

According to the existing system, some limited whole salers distributed fertilizers among the retailers and peasants. The supply position of fertilizers depends almost on the mercy of such whole salers. During the pick hour of cultivation they create artificial crisis and raise the price as per their sweet will.

The marginal and poor farmers face difficulties at the sudden price hike of fertilizer and they can not use required quantity of manure in the field.

The concerned authority have been urged to look into the matter and ensure supply of fertilizer for successful cul-

tivation of the crops.

Another report says: The roof of Chapadaha Govt. Primary School under sadar thana has not yet been repaired after the expiry of long 20 months. The roof of the said school building was blown away by the tornado that lashed on April 17, 1992 last.

Since then the students of the school have been attending classes under open sky.

Dacoity bid foiled

A dacoity bid was foiled by the local people at Mughultul under Gobindaganj thana recently. Four persons were stabbed by the miscreants during the fight.

At dead of night, eight rickshaw vans loaded with wooden goods bound for Kalirmela on Rangpur-Bogra highway were attacked by a gang of miscreants with deadly weapons and stabbed four van pullers and snatched away one van with its goods.

On hearing the hue and cry, local people encountered the miscreants and the highway

patrol police came to the help. Finding no other alternatives the miscreants fled away leaving the van behind.

The seriously injured persons were identified as Priyanath, Abdullah, Ashraf and Atal. They were removed to the local health complex. A case was registered with the Gobindaganj thana.

Discussion meet

A discussion meeting on 'women education' in the formation of nation was held under the auspices of Gobindaganj Mohila College recently. The meeting was presided over by A H M Kamrul Islam, Principal of the college.

The discussion meeting was addressed among others by Prof M A Mannan, Chairman Madrasa Board and Prof Nurul Islam, Inspector of National University.

The speakers emphasised on the importance of women education which play a vital role for the development of the nation.

30 injured as Moitri, Shibir clash in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 2: At least 30 people were injured in a clash between the activists of the Chhatra Moitri and the Islami Chhatra Shibir in the town today (Friday), reports UNB.

Of the injured, six were admitted to the Sadar Hospital. Police arrested eight leaders and activists of both the organisations in connection with the clash.

The arrested include district Chhatra Moitri convenor Zakir Hossain, Bulbul College Students' Union VP Rezaul Karim, Mehdi Hossain and Azmal Hossain.

Witnesses said the clash erupted after some activists from a procession of the Jamaat-backed Chhatra Shibir pelted stones at the students' union office of the local Bulbul College at about 10 am.

Chhatra Moitri sources said the Jamaat-Shibir activists had ransacked and damaged the students' union office. During the two-and-a-half hour clash around the college, about 10 crackers were exploded and the plying of vehicles remained suspended in the main town.

Two separate cases were filed with the police in this connection.

50,000 children suffering from skin diseases

NETROKONA, Jan 2: About 50,000 children in all the ten thanas of the district have been suffering from skin diseases and blindness, reports UNB.

According to doctors, children between the age group of five and nine years are the worst sufferers. Vitamin deficiency, malnutrition and lack of medicare facilities are the main reasons behind outbreak of the diseases.

Health officials said, motivation about primary health care, taking of vegetables and small fish can meet the vitamin deficiency.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to start motivating the ignorant people about primary health care in the district and supply necessary vitamin tablets and capsules to combat the spread of the diseases.

Another report says: Child labourers in the district are on rise due to abject poverty of their guardians.

Most of the children between the age group of five and ten have been working in hotels, restaurants, houses as domestic servants, rickshawpullers and day labourers in mills and

factories, porters in launch stations, hats and bazars and cowboys in the fields for earning their livelihood.

As there are no statutory rules for wages and services they are being given poor salary for their hard labour which cannot even satisfy their hunger. The privileged people taking advantage of the situation of their poverty exploit them.

The number of child labourers among the floating people who came from rural areas to the town and urban areas due to natural calamities is also on rise.

According to a survey conducted by some local journalists, about 15,000 children, instead of going to school, are engaged in manual works to eke out their living. After the day's work due to lack of shelter they are to pass their night in bus terminals, in front of cinema halls and verandas of residential houses.

During the winter, the condition of these shelterless children becomes very miserable as they cannot afford to buy warm clothes to cover their bodies.

District roundup

CHITTAGONG

Call for peaceful mayor election

Jan 2: Prof Mamtaujuddin Chowdhury, a contestant for the post of mayor of the upcoming Chittagong City Corporation election recently urged the government to take adequate measure for holding the election peacefully.

Addressing a press conference at a city hotel Chowdhury, a nominee of Bangladesh Islami Front also called for introduction of the voters identity card in the city corporation area to check forged voters.

Present on the occasion were front leaders Mohammad Jainul Abedin Jubeir, M A Matin, Abdus Samad, S M Fariduddin and Mosahebuddin Bakhtyar.

SIRAJGANJ

Bidi factories evade taxes

Jan 2: The government have been deprived of at least Taka 1.5 crore revenue from four bidi factories here during the last 20 years, says UNB.

According to a survey, conducted by Sirajganj based social welfare organisation 'Samaj Kalyan Sangha', these factories produce at least 4,000 bidi a day and the owners of these units seldom buy band-roll from post-office depriving the government of the revenue.

A packet of bidi containing 25 sticks needs a band-roll of Taka 0.30 and the owners of these factories - Mukut bidi, Kanu bidi, Julmat bidi and Kalpana bidi - are evading the revenue with the help of some corrupt customs and excise officials since long.

A rough estimate shows that the government could earn at least Taka 12,000 a day from these factories if the owners would have followed the rule.

It may be mentioned that these factories with the connivance of some corrupt officials buy a few band-rolls showing the daily bidi production much less than the actual production.

The report said that actual position of buying band-rolls could be unearthed from the sale records of the post office.

RAJSHAHI

15th founding anniversary of JCD observed

Jan 2: The 15th founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was observed in a befitting manner here Saturday, reports BSS.

A discussion was held at the party office with Syed Hasan Syed, President, Rajshahi City, JCD in the chair.

Sarwar Hossain Khokon, Secretary, Rajshahi City, JCD, Nadim Mustafa, President, Rajshahi district, JCD, Altafudaula Roni and Mahub Hasan, Vice President and General Secretary respectively of Rajshahi College Chhatra Sangsad, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Speakers at the meeting paid rich tributes to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and pledged to implement the 19-point programme for greater national interest. They called upon all to rally round BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for making the country happy and prosperous.

A procession was also brought out in the city in the afternoon to mark the day.

MADARIPUR

Absence of health, family welfare centres

Jan 2: Family planning programmes are being hampered greatly as there are no health and family welfare centres in 25 unions of four thanas of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the unions are Kazi Rakai, Dasar, Laxmipur, Baligram and Shahebpur unions of Kalkini thana; Ishibir, Kabirajpur, Amgram, Bajitpur, Kadambari, Hossainpur and Khalia unions of Rajoir thana; Ghotmajhi, Machkhola, Dhurail, Resti, Kunia, Bahadurpur, Khoaspur and Jhaodi of sadar thana; Charjanajat, Mikhi, Dattapara, Bandarkhola and Vodrashan unions of Shubchar thana.

In the absence of field staff and motivation work, the people of these unions are mostly quite ignorant about the utility of planned parenthood.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to open family planning centres at these unions immediately to combat the population boom.

KUSHITIA

One crushed under speeding truck

Jan 2: A bank official was knocked down and ran over by a speeding truck near Laboni cinema hall in Bheramara thana headquarters Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Rezaul Karim Badsha (35), Manager, Krishi Bank of Amla branch.

Rezaul met the accident when his rickshaw van was hit by the killer truck from behind near the cinema hall. Later, he succumbed to injuries on his way to Bheramara Health Complex.

Police, however, seized the truck and arrested its driver, Abdur Rashid.

A case was lodged with the Bheramara thana.

With this four people were killed in separate accidents in the last four days in the district.

A middle-aged man was killed and 50 others were injured when a bus skidded off the Kushiya-Jhenidhan road and plunged into a ditch Tuesday evening, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Sharafat Hossain, 40.

Twenty of the injured were admitted to the General Hospital here where 10 of them, including two babies, remained in critical condition, police and hospital sources said.

The Jhenidhan-bound bus skidded off the road while trying to overtake another at Alampur, 7 miles from here, at about 7 pm, they said.

A case has been filed.

BARISAL

"All villages to have electricity by 1995"

Jan 2: State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan said here Wednesday that the present government would create employment opportunities in the country through diversification of agriculture, pisciculture, tree plantation and poultry farming, reports BSS.

The state minister was addressing a party rally at Gomarhat under Bakerganj thana. It was presided over by Makbul Hossain Khan.

He said, all the 68 thousand villages of the country will be brought under electricity network by 1995 for boosting agricultural productions through the use of electricity. Yunus Khan said, the progress of the country depends on agriculture. He also called for removal of illiteracy from the country.

FENI

Books worth Tk 1.05 lakh to be distributed

Jan 2: Islamic Foundation has taken up a programme to distribute some books on Islam worth Taka 1.05 lakh in different centres of the district during current fiscal year, says UNB.

The books will be distributed in 25 mosques, Islamic book clubs and Islamic libraries of five thanas.

Six hundred books worth Taka 70,000 will be distributed to 10 libraries of mosque, 275 books worth Taka 25,000 to five Islamic libraries, 320 books worth Taka 10,000 to 10 Islamic book clubs.

Official sources said, the books would be distributed among the heads of the organisations on January 10, 1994 at a simple ceremony to be held at the district Islamic Foundation office premises.

At last pisciculture has been started at Muhuri Irrigation Project after nine years of its commission.

A programme has been undertaken to release 14 lakh fish fry this year, Sangsad Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara inaugurated the programme by releasing fish fry on Dec 18. High officials of the Fisheries Department were present on the occasion.

SATKHIRA

779 people committed suicide in '93

Jan 2: Some 770 people of the district allegedly committed suicide during the year 1993, reports UNB.

Of the victims, about 70 per cent are women and rest 30 per cent male.

Of them, 156 people committed suicide in Tala, 150 in Kolarua, 180 in sadar, 93 in Ashasuni, 70 in Kaliganj, 50 in Debbaha and 80 in Shaymaganj.

Dowry: family feud and poverty are the main causes behind the suicide.

Notes From Tangail

TANGAIL, Jan 2: The Anuprash, a national level poets, organisation held an assembly on Friday, at zilla parishad auditorium on occasion of its eighth founding anniversary, reports BSS.

Poet Abdus Sattar Ukil presided over the function. Poet Khoshnour Alamgir attended it as chief guest. Twentyone poets recited from their poems, and over 30 boys and girls took part in recitation competition.

Organisational matters of the Anuprash also came up for discussion.

Blood donation

Souls for Souls, a voluntary non-government organisation in cooperation with Gopalpur College, held a blood donation camp at the college premises recently.

Sixtysix bags of blood were donated by the students. Thirty persons made commitment for donating their eyes.

Speaking on the occasion a Salam Pinto MP, thanked the donors for their generous attitude and also urged others to come forward in aid of the distressed humanity.

Sarak paribahan union leader killed

Rafiqul Islam (45) Vice President Tangail Zilla Sarak Paribahan Shramik Union was allegedly killed Sunday night by miscreants near Natiapara Bazar.

The miscreants allegedly stabbed him while he was returning home at village Tenguripara in Bashail thana. A case has been registered with Bashail thana.

11-day-long programme opens

An eleven-day-long programme on the occasion 'Handar Mukta Tangail' was inaugurated recently at the Shahidminter by eminent Freedom Fighter Abdul Kader Siddiqui.

On the opening day a colourful rally paraded the main roads of Tangail town.

A discussion meeting on the battle situation in the Tangail front by the local Freedom Fighter was held in the evening at the Shahidminter where Abdul Kader Siddiqui narrated the courage and valor of the Freedom Fighters. Amir Hossain Anu Presidium Member of Awami League spoke as chief guest. Among other M R Akhter Mukul also spoke at the function.

Ten examinees expelled

Ten honours final and masters preliminary examinees of the Sadat Government University College centre were expelled for adopting unfair means in the halls.

One thousands candidates of honours final and masters preliminary classes in Bengali, Accountancy, Zoology, Political Science, Economic and General History have been appearing at the examination from the centre.

2 rickshawpullers killed in mishap

COMILLA, Jan 2: Two rickshawpullers were killed and a cycle-rider was injured in a road accident at Mainamati Cantonment area on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway today, reports UNB.

Rickshawpuller Waziullah, 35, of Harinbhassa village in Burichang thana died on the spot while Afazuddin, 55, of Hajipur village of Laksham thana died on the way to local hospital, police said.

The accident occurred when a speeding motor vehicle hit the rickshaws. The vehicle was trying to overtake another vehicle, witnesses said.



SYLHET: Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, speaking at a rally arranged by the local Division Implementation and Greater Sylhet Development Action Council on December 28 at the Madrasah Maidan for immediate formation of Sylhet Division.

Clash over paddy harvesting, 18 injured, two kidnapped

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 2: At least 18 persons including a woman were injured over following a clash between two rival groups over harvesting of paddy on waqfa property on Friday morning at Baralabangala village under sadar thana of Barguna district.

Fourteen seriously injured persons were admitted to Barguna hospital. Lathials reportedly kidnapped four persons including a woman during the clash. Barguna thana police rescued Nurul Islam (32) and Abdus Sobhan (34) from the spot but the rest two Mansur Hossain (28) and Kuisum Begum (23) are still remain untraced.

It is reported that the two local rival groups had rivalry over 70 decimal land property of the said waqfa estate.

On Friday morning, Latif, one of the party leaders with his men tried to harvest paddy from that property but the opposite party resisted them. As a result, a clash started between the groups.

During the clash, Moslem (50), Mostafa (40), Minara (35), Moslem Sikder (38), Abdul Malek (23), Maiful Bibi (40), Rawshan Ara Begum (35), Golam Mostafa (20), Safia Begum (28), Sonabanu (28), Jainab Bibi (35), Hanif (50), Abdul Hakim (31), and Kabir Sikder (28) were injured seri-

ously and they were admitted to the hospital.

A case has been lodged with the Barguna police.

Another report says: Gono-forum leader A M A Muhiit said here today on Thursday that during the 250 years of autocratic rule, the autocrats did not want to educate people so that they can exploit them.

He was addressing as chief guest at a public meeting at the local Aswini Kumar Hall on Thursday afternoon.

He said, we hurried autocratic rule and achieved independence in '71 but could not gain economic independence.

No confidence motion against UP chairman

JAMALPUR, Jan 2: Members of Belgacha Union Parishad in Islampur thana moved a no confidence motion against the incumbent chairman on charge of corruption, nepotism and autocracy, reports UNB.

The members alleged that Delwar Hossain misappropriated wheat allotted for the distressed women and funds of Food for Works and Tree Plantation Programmes.

All the nine members submitted a written allegation on the issues to the Deputy Com-

missioner Thursday.

The DC, Jalal Ahmed directed concerned TNO for an enquiry into the allegations brought against the chairman.

District Union Parishad Chairman Samity at a meeting Wednesday urged the government to materialise their 12-point demand by January 31, '94.

The meeting, held in the Deputy Commissioner hall room was presided over by M A Jalil.

The samity urged its members to make their National Conference a success.

Tk 200cr for uplift of connecting roads

MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 2: A total of Tk 200 crore will be spent for the development and construction of thana connecting roads and other 'B' category roads throughout the country this fiscal year, reports UNB.

Earlier, this year's allocation in this sector was only Tk 50 crore, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman told a public meeting at Nazirabad union in the district today.

Referring to the government's top priority in the education sector, the minister said it also laid much importance in the infrastructural development of the country.

In the education sector, he added, all the non-government primary schools of the country will be taken up in the government's development programme this year.

Saifur Rahman said a total of Tk 500 crore will be spent for the girls students' stipend programme recently undertaken by the government covering all the 460 thanas of the country.

This year, all the unions of the flood prone areas of the country will be brought under the food for education drive launched by the government, he added saying that these measures had been undertaken to encourage primary and female education.

The Finance Minister urged the government implementing agencies to utilise within the stipulated time all money allocated in the current year's annual development programmes for various projects.

"Only six months are left in the current financial year and we have to utilise all the money under the annual development programme within this time," he reminded.

Saifur Rahman said during the previous government, there was no development due to lack of fund. "But now, we have money and there should not be any hindrance in the development process."

He blasted the Jatiya Party for 'misdeeds' in the economic sector and said during their nine-year autocratic rule, even the government expenditures, including pay and allowances of the government employees, were met by borrowing money from outside.

"The deficit revenue budget reflected the gross misuse, misdeeds and mismanagement of the previous government in the economic sector."

Presided over by local BNP leader M Aisar Uddin Master, the meeting was also addressed by district BNP president Advocate Abdul Khaled, general secretary Advocate Zunaid Ahmed, Advocate Mujibur Rahman and student leader Ruhel Islam.

District unit of Jatiya Juba Sanghat brought out a procession and held a rally in the town Thursday protesting terrorism activities of the local Jubadal mastans.

Food for Edn Programme in satisfactory progress

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 2: The Food for Education Programme in 13 thanas of the district is going on in full swing, official sources said.

According to report, 13 unions of 13 thanas have been selected under the programme.

The unions are: Chowdasata union in Kishoreganj sadar thana, Narandi in Pakundia thana, Damiha in Tarail thana, Gobaria in Kuliarchar thana, Balladi in Bitampur thana, Katkhal in Mitampur thana, Mriga in Itra thana, Shibir in Bhairab thana, Lo-hajurt in Kattadi thana, Shingpur in Nikli thana, Sutrapara in Karimganj thana, Sahedal in Hossainpur thana and Kastul in Austagram thana.

Children of 12,025 families in the district will be given food under the programme.

A total of 18,375 kgs of wheat have been allotted for

each union per month. The Managing Committee will supervise the distribution.

The District Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kishoreganj submitted charge sheet against two persons including the union parishad chairman for defalcation of wheat under Food for Works Programme.

According to bureau office, during the financial year 1990-91, Emdadul Haque, Chairman of Hossaindi union parishad, was the project chairman for the reconstruction of the road running from Kumarpur village to the house of Pancharanda in Kaheterredt village.

The project chairman lifted 45,641 metric tons of wheat in four instalments. Later, he misappropriated 2,946 metric tons in collusion with Shamsul Huda, Supervisor of Pakundia Thana Engineering Office, without submitting the master rolls



JESSORE: Noted Artist S M Sultan is inaugurating Dhi Union Public Library at Pak-sy of Sharsha thana in Jessore recently.